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Near East/South Asia Report

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OAPEC OFFERS SPECIAL DEAL TO TUNISIA, APPROVES 5-YEAR PLAN

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 4, 5 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

THE Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapec), seeking to avert a split in its ranks, unveiled a special deal yesterday to coax Tunisia into changing its mind about quitting.

Ministers and top officials attending biannual talks in Kuwait of the 10-nation Oapec, hit badly by the crash in oil prices, also slashed their budget for 1987 by nearly one-quarter.

Review

"The (ministerial) council agreed to request Tunisia to postpone its decision to withdraw from the organisation," a spokesman said after the one-day talks ended.

Oapec, he said, was prepared to relieve Tunisia of its obligations while the group waited for it "to review its position and resume its role as an active member." No deadline was set.

Tunisia, home to the Arab League headquarters, gave notice it would leave several months ago in the wake of the crash in oil prices. It did not send a delegation to yesterday's talks.

The spokesman said Oapec, struggling to get members to pay 1986 and previous budget dues, slashed spending for 1987 by 23.4 percent to KD 2.07 million dinars ($7.01 million). The meeting also approved a new five-year plan for 1987-92.

Warned

The ministerial meeting, attended by full ministers from Kuwait, Iraq, Syria and Bahrain, with lesser officials leading other delegations, yesterday approved a $9.16 million budget for 1987 and a five-year plan of activities.

An Oapec source told Opecna that the ministerial council also reviewed the organization's programme for next year, as well as preparations for the fourth Arab energy conference to be held in Baghdad in March 1988.

Bahrain's Minister of Development and Industry, Yousef Al Shirawi, called for "courageous handling of the thorny oil situation" when he opened the Oapec conference.

Al Shirawi, referring to the economic pitfalls that Arab oil-producing countries face because of the unstable world oil market, warned that Oapec was "passing through very difficult circumstances."

But he attributed this to the "reappraisal of joint Arab action" which he said was currently underway.

Failure

"This is backfiring on all Pan-Arab organizations, but it should not plague us with frustration," he stressed.

Official sources told Kuna the evening session was devoted to discussion of delayed payment of contributions by five of the 10 Oapec members.

Tunisia, Syria, Iraq, Qatar and Algeria together owe the organization KD 1.350 million by the end of the year, according to the sources.

Each member state had to pay KD 270,000 to Oapec's 1986 budget.

The ministers were also discussing the failure of Syria, Iraq and Tunisia to settle due payments of KD 1.7 million to the organization's previous budgets, the sources said.

Some of the defaulting countries had argued that "rich" members should pay the bulk of the budget in the coming years, but the contention has been rebuffed in this morning session.

Oapec groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Iraq, Algeria and Libya — all members of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) — along with non-Opec Tunisia, Syria and Bahrain.

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ARTICLES WARN OF THREAT TO REVOLUTION FROM WITHIN

Bourgeoisie Betrays People's Interests

Tripoli AL-ZAHAF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 17 Nov 86 p 3

[Article by Abu 'Ujaylah Kashadah: "What Are We Waiting For?"]

[Text] The revolution is a triumph for the masses, their salvation from bondage,and a boost to their being and dignity. It did not install a specific group to realize a specific personal interest. Moreover, it brought about an inevitable end to the kinds of oppression and bondage that emerged on our soil due to oppressive relations that deem the forbidden permissible, allow every "misfortune" to wreak havoc on earth, and nurture every bad tree that has not one green leaf nor a fragrance.

This is an incontestable axiom that was lacking in any of the revolutions that have occurred throughout the ages, for all these revolutions had the same pattern and the same weight: a government replacing another government! A president replacing another president! A king replacing another king!

No one, but no one, can disavow its blessings or deny its grace, especially those poor and helpless people who lived the best years of their lives and spent the prime of their youth as servants and attendants guarding the palaces of the wealthy, shining their shoes and taking care of their children, or working as personal drivers for the wives, daughters and children, and dogs of the rich while walking long distances on their chapped bare feet, expending their sweat and blood as laborers in factories and companies owned by businessmen and feudal lords in exchange for abuse, insults, constant imprecation, and flogging.

No one can sense the revolution and its value except those who sleep in tin huts and shanties, those who take the ground as their bed and the sky as their cover, and those who have known real hunger, real poverty, real pain, and have been besieged by harsh suffering.

We have been deprived of our livelihood even though our hands reap it and we pay for it in sweat, blood, and hard work. We are unable to get our food even though it is grown on our land and despite the fact that we are the ones who mete it out in tons so that the rich may rule by it. Our blood was proscribed

by law so long as it was spent in building palaces or developing land for a bourgeoisie. Our blood was being sucked by Draculas.

We alone, the poor, the helpless and the destitute who were defenseless and powerless, can feel that the revolution was undertaken for our sake to restore life to our souls, the beat to our heart, and joy throughout our body.

The revolution has broken through all the barriers that stand between us and real life, that take away our pride and dignity, that deprive us of water, air and food, and that deny us the feeling of natural existence.

It has broken through all barriers and obstacles to find us drowned in an endless sea of injustice, oppression, humiliation, degradation, exclusion, and neglect; we are drowned in a vast ocean of oppressive and unjust laws that heap on us misery and disasters. Hence, one of us thought to defy and to deviate from them and to raise his voice in the face of glaring injustice and to look farther than his nose.

O you poor, you who do not know and do not remember! When the revolution came, it found a handful of fatcats who got fat because they ate our food, deprived us of our livelihood, and sucked our blood while we were in their service. It found palaces towering higher than the eye could see, palaces we had built on our shoulders brick by brick. It found enormous farms where bourgeois owners enjoyed comfort while we were plowing, planting, and working them. It found greedy employers stepping on our necks to kill any feeling of freedom inside us. It found immoral unconscionable people sitting in the seats of power to serve their friends, brothers-in-law, and mistresses.

O you poor, you who do not know or do not remember! When the revolution came, and true to the bourgeois custom, they tried to gather around it, if they had not already done that. They tried to steal it from you, if they have not already done so. They applauded it and its leader until their hands got tired and their palms began bleeding. They cheered until they became hoarse because they saw it as a milk cow whose milk always flowed, something to realize their ends and to embody their foolish dreams.

They shoved us around in all directions. They flattered, they dissembled, and they exaggerated to the point of impetuousness in a new society so that the poor may have a place to live and where those in rags are equal to those dressed in Persian suits. They spread out in a society where the only claim they have is to exist side by side with the poor, including farmers, producers, students, and...and...etc.

They tried to seize everything and to employ everything in their service, and to their interests and advantage. They grabbed everything. They sat in all the seats save for the original people's conferences seat. They befriended our enemies and extended their hands to them. They conspired against the revolutions and our wealth, against our sweat, our blood, our glory, and our sovereignty.

They wanted to take us backward and to bring back the past with its oppressive rules.

They wanted to put fear back in our hearts and remain at the summit looking down on us.

They wanted us to abandon human relations and to hate one another and to resent one another so that they might gloat and rejoice. They wanted us to stay away from our popular conferences so that they might sow the seeds of doubt and ill-will between our government, our revolution, and ourselves.

They wanted to silence us so that their voices might be heard!

They wanted to bulldoze our homes so that their palaces might remain standing,

To take way our motorcycles, wagons and popular cars so that only their luxury cars might remain on the roads,

And for us to be slaves and hirelings while they retain their positions as undisputed masters.

The front page editorial, "An Urgent Call for a Political Party," published by AL-ZAHAF AL-AKHDAR in its issue No 371, brought things out into the open so that the masses might be aware of the bare facts. It was an appeal to the simple masses, who are the beneficiaries of the revolution and who hold the key to action and accomplishments, to set out on a raging mass march to overrun the strongholds of the opportunists and the reactionaries and to root out all the "tawatim" [colloquialism] hiding behind a thousand masks and remain on earth.

O you Libyan Arabs! Read the editorial over and over again. Scrutinize every word and examine every letter. Go with it to where it wants to take you. Think about and imagine every sentence in it. Let your memory take you back in time. You will find that the revolution is gaining in greatness and splendor, and that its ideology that burns your enemy is burning more intensely.

Gentlemen:

Opportunist and parvenue forces, bourgeois remnants and the clique of traitors, and enemies of God, the homeland the people pay no heed to reason or good will. They will not join your great poor lot or your roaring current, no matter how much you overlook their mistakes and disregard their mistakes. They will not lay down their arms, but will brandish them in your faces once again whenever the opportunity presents itself.

They will not abandon the tactics of exploitation and corruption that suck the people's blood, that steal their food and tear up the bodies of the poor and the oppressed with their nails.

Gentlemen:

They mingled with us. They entered our modest homes through the windows. They came into our lives unannounced. They sowed their rotten fruit on our

land and among our green crops. They were satisfied to come to us. They spread their culture and their attitudes. They taught us how to be indifferent, dependent, and negative. They sat in front of us, to the back of us, to our right, and to our left. We underestimated them and did not inflict on them the punishment they deserved. We believed everything they said. We did not doubt their lies and hypocrisy. We did not think to tear down their face masks and burn the cloaks that cover and shield them.

Gentlemen:

The screening process has become a dire necessity. It cannot be put off any longer. We must put it into operation before we are overcome by events and find ourselves before a fait accompli. Our enemies will not pause for one moment in their efforts to defeat us and win the battle against us. Neither will they openly declare their enmity toward us.

They will go on hiding in our midst, eating the way we eat, walking the way we walk, sleeping the way we sleep, and dressing the way we dress. They earn salaries and sit on seats just as we do. Luck or favoritism have made them custodians of our markets, our installations, and our gigantic industrial fortresses. We and they must be separated. They have their belief and we have ours.

In order to realize your revolution, your gains, and your green ideology whose fragrance has spread all over the universe, O you poor people, you who do not know and do not remember, start your work today rather than tomorrow. What are you waiting for?

Foes Keep al-Qadhdhafi from Masses

Tripoli AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 17 Nov 86 p 3

[Article by Khalifah Ahwas: "We Will Give Them a Taste of Hoopoe Punishment"]

[Text] The Libyan Arabs who cheered the emergence of the leader of the revolution for the first time in history until their voices became hoarse and applauded the revolution until their palms got sore, these simple people, the relative improvement in their standard notwithstanding, have not exercised their power and have not taken possession of their wealth despite their participation in people's conferences and the leader's constant insistence on that.

The bourgeoisie that lacks civilizational, religious, and national standards is still emitting its stench in the halls of the people's committees that have been promoted by the simple masses, these masses who bear all kinds of contradictions and parallels brought on by their members' stances and positions, but still carry nothing but absolute love for Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and his eternal ideology.

One person wondered whether these fickle people who have distorted Muhammad's message, thrusting it into political battles in which non-sectarian Muslims are falling victim, can distort Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's great ideology?

Definitely. Those who have distorted an ideology revealed to Muhammad can strip revolutionary slogans of their civilizational content, and this is exactly what they have done.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is loved by all. He is hated only by those who deify imperialism and distort Islam and those who have been rooted out by the revolution as part of the oppressive bases that used to crowd Libyan soil. Due to their chameleon-like style and attitude, they applauded the revolution exactly as did those for whom the revolution was launched and who went out in roaring marches, just as "Qilal al-Wali" did, to rally around their great leader. The Libyan bourgeoisie, which is synonymous with world imperialism and racial Zionism, was the one that wrapped itself around natural socialism created by the green ideology to strip it of its substance. For it completely devastated and drained the social markets when it hoarded all their goods and the common people had to pay for that at astronomical prices in the ant's markets where the people's committees in Benghazi are unable to do anything. For the street leading to this hornet's nest next to the central cemetery has been named "Palestine Street," as though Palestine has been buried forever. This is what they have done!

This bourgeoisie assumed management of the consumer cooperatives by means of its former and current merchants to use them as a qualitative step backward rather than as a mature civilizational concept on the road to true socialism.

The Libyan bourgeoisie comes together with the world right in malice, cunning, and the ability to flatter and deal with the people's committees produced "revolutionary backdrops" as government fronts the access to which depends on a reactionary system of contacts. Those without any contacts shall remain unknown as though the revolution has not been undertaken.

The revolution broke out by the will of the people backed by the deprived and the dejected. It is the one that created the green salvation supported by the tiring masses. But those clever capricious people pulled the rug out from under its feet and tried to extract the love for the green's creator from its soul but failed miserably.

Under the pretext of "having access to the leader," the masses were driven away and dispossessed of their civilizational consciousness, thus compelling them to complain, when they are at their wit's end, to those worthless souls who savor leadership and are tempted by the notion of power!

Under the pretext of "false access," they claimed that so and so could not be removed and replaced by the masses who possess the popular power, hiding behind the allegation that Mu'ammar wants it that way, when Mu'ammar has nothing whatsoever to do with it.

Under the pretext of "access,' the leader was kept away from the masses and surrounded by a group of capricious people who began asserting their presence as a government front, using a "guidance" logic while the masses remained in wait, complaining to their provokers after getting fed up with the people's conferences, and being denied access to the leader they love.

The official bourgeois thinking that dwells inside those capricious souls is what created this gap among dear friends. Its brazen existence must be exposed so that the masses may stand to the left and their enemies to the right, separated by barricades. A mass revolution in its simple truth cannot come to peace with a bad reality created to get rid of it.

--The failure of the Libyan Arab citizen to free himself of the complex of fear is a bad reality created by foreign cultures.

--The citizen's inability to stand up to official mentalities that drive the people's committees is a bad reality.

--Those who consecrate conditions the revolution was meant to eliminate, under the slogan of the revolution, itself are bad models that must be held accountable.

--Those who drag the leader's name into matters in which he has nothing to do are government models that must be exposed. Those who have created followers and have delusions of leadership and are possessed by the "protection" dream are reactionary models that must be eliminated.

A truce between the revolutionary committees and their civilizational antithesis, the Libyan bourgeoisie, which is allied to the world imperialist right and the whole group of squalid alliances, is a horrible mistake that has brought about a bad reality inconsistent with the fundamentals of the civilizational revolution and, therefore, must be handled with objectivity free of underbidding and overbidding.

The throngs of the simple naked and barefoot people, for whom the revolution was undertaken in order to realize their existence that was blotted out by the world right, must, after 17 years of revolution, exercise their freedom on earth and under the sun. This, however, has not been realized except ever so slightly due to a "new class" whose heart is with the revolution while its swords are drawn against it. It is a clique that has falsified every sacred march, thus causing the people to almost lose confidence in their ability to make history. It is a bunch of chameleons able to coexist with any reality, chameleons whose nature is to change color and have created a gap between the masses and the revolution in whose shade the people and the leader tried to preserve their injured reality while cheering at the top of their voices the revolution for freedom. Those who were not known to anyone remained without shelter and true freedom. The chameleons are competing in deparvity that has exposed them one by one so that right may reign and the unwary may prevail, kicking the trash of the bygone era into its natural place on the dunghill of history.

The era of the masses is a green one that sets emotions on fire and dazzles the eyes. It tolerates no injustice and no prejudice and the revolutionary committees are charged with the responsibility of leading the masses to this paradise on earth. This is the way it should be, but reality says differently.

The people, with all their classes, are still plowing through their contradictions without a clear vision save for the Green Book and without angelic love save for the leader of the revolution. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is the defender of the needy who only have the mercy of God in the face of the bad reality created by people's (revolutionary) committees that view guidance and debate as cheap overbidding on grounds that the only one that can guide them is the leader because he selected their members, as if they did not read the revolutionary committee membership card, and another reality forged by cultural groups pushed in ready made bags by the Libyan bourgeoisie by giving distorted images of housing: "the house does not belong to the occupant, communication and justice coexist with injustice, and there is no need to take out a clean record card for the members of the local public security."

Citizenship no doubt has nothing to do with living conditions nor with culture, regardless of whether its holder knows someone in government.

Citizenship is an absolute right, just like making democratic decisions in people's conferences even though the people's committees are betraying their trust in implementing decisions and are indifferent to the masses and do not depend on them. This is the only difference.

Citizenship is not subject to categorization and no one can confiscate it, exactly as love for the leader and affifliation with the era of the masses cannot be confiscated from deep within for with the day of the era of the masses the masses have withdrawn from deep down the idea of the clique as a poltical party. Likewise, the upstarts, the centers of power, and the tainted cannot seize the masses eternal love of freedom because they are government fronts that will inevitably be eliminated by the barefoot people who constitute the real substance of the instrument of rule in Libya, the people's conferences.

The masses will not exude goodness and will not be polluted by bourgeois putridity. Their dignaity will not be undermined by the wrong practices of the capricious. Those kindhearted unknowns will go on making history through their civilization and their progress. Integrity has been distinguished from sin and the only thing the chameleons can do is to submit to the people's will to make them taste the hoopoe's punishment.

Onward.

People's Committees Held Accountable

Tripoli AL-JAMAHIRIYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 86 p 4

[Article by Naji Ibrahim: "We Will Open the Files"]

[Text] If man were an angel he would not have left paradise. This is the will of Almighty God. And if man were an angel, there would be no justification for divine laws or for sending prophets to guide him and show him the right way. There would not be a need for the preposition "if" in

grammar. But God created man and put him in paradise and asked Satan and the angels to bow to Adam. All the angels bowed save for Satan who refused and was haughty and was cursed by God till the Day of Judgment. He granted Adam and his wife paradise, but asked them not to get near the tree, but Satan seduced them and they earned God's wrath for He "forgiveth whom He will." But the masses in their golden age chose individuals who donned the garb of honesty and loyalty, so they trusted them, but soon were exposed and discredited, so will they be forgiven by He who has the right to forgive them and accept their repentance. There is no longer a monarch (an individual) who rules, a party that rules or a president, or tribal chief that rules so that they may be forgiven. The masses are not an individual or a party to create for themselves followers and retinues or to win votes in parliamentry or presidential elections. The masses are the masses, the master of decision. They are the past, the present, and the future generations. They are the infant, the children, the unborn children, and the yet-to-be born children, they are the adults of the future. These are the masses.

The masses will not deceive and will not mislead. They may be deceived, but their reckoning is imminent and their punishment is severe. He who wants to ridicule the masses one day will be forever ridiculed by the masses who will afflict with torment all those who betrayed the people's trust, those who took custody of the people's wealth and accomplishments, and neglected their agricultural and housing projects while being completely engrossed in other things, taking advantage of their position as guardians, selling out to Satan, and making contracts with company presidents to build palaces and import cars at the expense of public projects without once taking into consideration the masses that brought them to power and heedless of the fact that the revolution does not belong only to the living and the present generation, but to the dead and the past generations as well. For had the past generations not preserved the revolution for us, we would not have had it and had we not preserved it, the future generations would not find it. Those people forgot that they have sinned against the past, the present, and the future generations and will be cursed and punished by all of them.

We know them by name and title. We know what they used to be and what they have become and what they had and what they now have. We will hold them accountable and open the files. The masses will regain all their possessions, be they palaces, farms, or real estate under the "where are you from" law. If they have not registered their possessions, we have registered what they have and what they owe. Files and registers will be opened and social screening will begin. Facts will come to light and we will expose those who betrayed the people's trust with their plundering and excesses. All the properties they usurped from the Libyan people will be restored to their rightful owners and we will expose their present and past deeds. The screening process will begin now and we call upon the revolutionary committees to begin preparing lists of former and current people's committees secretaries and their previous and current holdings in preparation for "a day of anguish," a day when the masses will regain their wealth and properties that were stolen from them by the wolves.

We must waste no time in raising the slogan of disclosure-disclosure and screening-screening and call upon popular and revolutionary courts to apply the "where are you from" law.

12502
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BRIEFS

GROMYKO, MANSUR CONDEMN U.S. 'PROVOCATIONS'--Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU Politburo and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, praised the progress of relations between the Soviet Union and the Great Jamahiriyah based on mutual respect. During a meeting with the secretary of People's Committee of People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, who is visiting the Soviet Union these days at the invitation of the Soviet Government, he said that both countries were endeavoring to strengthen friendship ties and extend dimensions of cooperation, and were witnessing substantial progress in all fields. The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Laison praised the Soviet stand supporting those people struggling for their freedom. He called for extending cooperation between socialist and nonaligned countries in a way that would serve the interests of world peace and security. The two sides stressed their condemnation of the provocations carried out by the U.S. Administration, hostile to progressive peoples in the Arab homeland, Africa, and Asia. [Text] [Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Dec 86] /9604

BULGARIAN AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT--Tripoli, al Kanoun 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--An accord for joint cooperation in agriculture was signed today in Tripoli between Great Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The accord stipulates fo. cooperation in a plant production and dams and other agricultural matters. The Libyan-Bulgarian joint sub-committee for agriculture held several meetings within the last few days in Tripoli during which it discussed ways and means to develop cooperation in agricultural matters between the two countries. [Text] [Tripoli JANA in English 1859 GMT 14 Dec 86] /9604

EGYPTIAN ARMY PERSONNEL ARRESTED--Brothers in Arabism. We have just received the following: In an urgent dispatch by the BBC English-language service, the agent Egyptian regime has arrested a number of officers and men of the Egyptian army on the charge of rebelling against the agent regime. The public prosecutor of the Egyptian regime stated a short while ago that the Egyptian regime has arrested a number of officers and men who planned to topple the foundation of the agent Egyptian regime. [Text] [Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Dec 86] /9604

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION--Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and members of his delegation stopped over at Tripoli International Airport this morning en route to the Republic of Mali. In a statement to JANA at Tripoli International Airport, he praised relations between Jamahiriyah and the Soviet Union. He spoke of good bilateral relations in the economic field and the identity of the views of both sides on matters of world peace, in the present conditions. He expressed his country's hope for the great success of the Libyan Arab people in all fields. [Text] [Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Dec 86] /9604

CSO: 4500/43

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 15-21 Oct 86 p 11

[Interview with Dr Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, president of the Constituent Assembly, by unnamed correspondent: "President of Sudanese Parliament: 'The Transitional Constitution Is a Piece of Yellow Paper Copied Here and There!'"; Khartoum, date not given]

[Text] The Sudanese Constituent Assembly (Parliament) faces many interrelated problems. Among these problems is the matter of the suspension of sessions because of the withdrawal of parliamentary blocs and their not being bound by constitutional provisions.

AL-MAJALLAH met in Khartoum with Dr Muhammad Ibrahim Khalil, president of the Constituent Assembly, and asked him questions about the issues being discussed within this assembly and about his responsibility toward it.

[Question] You are accused of not being neutral as president of the Constituent Assembly and of leaning constantly toward the ranks of your party, the Ummah Party, and the government. What is your comment?

[Answer] This accusation is not true, nor does it rest on any foundation. I give the opposition more opportunities than their parliamentary size warrants, and this is making me a target of criticism by deputies from the government parties. In sessions and outside of them, I frequently receive angry notes from them, asking: "Why are you giving the opposition more opportunities than the government? What is the justification for this behavior?" As everyone knows, two matters have been submitted to the assembly: the message of the government and the general budget message. In both cases, if we look at the statistics, we find that the number of speakers from the opposition was greater than the actual numerical proportion of the opposition within the assembly.

[Question] How do you justify your not having included on the agenda the proposal of the Islamic opposition to condemn the downing of the civilian aircraft by John Garang's forces?

[Answer] That is not true. The fact of the matter is that I included it, more out of consideration for the opposition than for anything else. The

proposal was presented after 3 pm and after one of the short sessions. A large number of parliamentary deputies and ministers had already left the building when two members of the opposition came and presented the proposal. After I had read it, I explained that a proposal of this sort could not be put on the agenda without the government's knowledge. I explained to them that the proposal had political, strategic, and military dimensions. On the same day, Dr Bashir 'Umar, the minister of finance, was present in the assembly building as a representative of the government. I left him to discuss the proposal with members of the opposition, and he confirmed to them that the government would have to discuss it. We printed copies for Dr 'Umar to take. It was agreed that a representative of the government and one of the opposition would come the next morning to discuss the manner in which the proposal would be presented. When they had the discussion, they could not agree. I would sum it up by saying that the proposal was included on the agenda; that I could not, of course, present a proposal of this kind without the knowledge of the government; and that the session began with the proposal included on the agenda, but was adjourned on a point of order, due to lack of a quorum.

[Question] How do you, as a professor of constitutional law, justify your description of the transitional constitution as "bad"? Is it because your party was defeated in a political maneuver that led to cancellation of the first session set aside for presenting the budget due to lack of a quorum?

[Answer] Merely because I described the transitional constitution as bad, some opposition newspapers say that I am not neutral and that my description of it was idle talk. In any country, people comment upon the constitution and criticize it. I respect the constitution and obey its provisions, but that does not prevent me from having opinions about some provisions of the constitution. My having become president of the Constituent Assembly does not mean that I cease being a student of constitutional law. I have many reasons for calling it bad. To sum up, a constitution that comes in the wake of a revolution ought to reflect the spirit and goals of that revolution, but in the case of the transitional constitution this did not happen. Thus, you will find it to be merely a yellow sheet of paper copied here and there. The constitution dealt with matters that could have been left to other domains, specifying, for example, that there be a quorum in parliament, without distinguishing between a meeting quorum and a voting quorum. Such a provision might better have been left to the bylaws. From the point of view of formulation and content, most of the provisions of the transitional constitution could be better than they are. Expressing such an opinion does not preclude my being neutral. I was not speaking about an issue before the assembly, so that it might affect my neutrality. My talk about the constitution was general. It was mere accident that caused it to coincide in time with the adjournment of the session just mentioned.

[Question] How do you explain the phenomenon of repeated withdrawals from assembly sessions? What, in your opinion, is the best treatment?

[Answer] I believe the phenomenon of withdrawals is not consistent with the nature of parliamentary democracy--now that we have all agreed to democracy as a method of government, meaning that we have repudiated the method of

threats, withdrawals, and violence. The logic of the uprising implies that we have given up such methods. My duty as president of the assembly is to talk to those who withdraw and urge them to return. Nevertheless, some parliamentary blocs have insisted on withdrawing. I notified those who withdrew that the constitution specifies that the seat of a member who is absent for 12 consecutive sessions without an excuse shall be deemed vacant. Throughout the time of the withdrawals, discussion continued between the government and the leaders of the withdrawing blocs. This discussion led to the return of the deputies who had withdrawn and their participation in the activities of the assembly.

[Question] In the context of the role of the majority and that of the opposition, how do you evaluate the experience of the Constituent Assembly in the period recently concluded?

[Answer] My evaluation is that the experience has demonstrated that everyone --government and opposition--has risen to the level of responsibility. The level of discussion has been very high. The level of attendance has been high. It became lower toward the end of the day because deputies showed a desire to dicsuss the government address and the budget address. Session lasted more than 8 hours. There was earnest cooperation between the government and opposition, which paved the way for us to approve the financial laws pertaining to the budget at the appropriate time. I hope this cooperation will lead to the achievement of what we are striving for.

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DECISION ON MEAT IMPORTS QUESTIONED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Oct 86 pp 35-37

[Article by al-Safi Musa and Badr-al-Din Malik: "Sudan, Country of 1 Million Square Miles, Dozens of Rivers, and Livestock Wealth--Why the Decision To Import Meat?"]

[Text] Khartoum and other Sudanese cities are currently witnessing an exorbitant rise in meat prices. Animal prices, and consequently meat prices, have reached fantastic levels, prompting Dr Muhammad Yusuf Abu-Hurayrah, the Sudanese minister of commerce, to open the door to the importation of meat, live or slaughtered, in hope that this step will lead to blunting the sharpness of the rise in prices. AL-DUSTUR contacted the maker of this decision and the specialized authorities concerned with its implementation. The result was the following report.

The minister of commerce said about the decision: "As for domestic meat prices, we cannot lower prices for the consumer unless we impose a reduction on the cattle merchant. Naturally, we do not wish to treat the latter unjustly, so we are looking for a way to obtain meat more cheaply than at the domestic price. We hope that this step will automatically lead to competition that will in turn lead to a fall in prices to a reasonable level. At the same time, we are very concerned that prices not drop so much as to hurt the producer."

Stopping Exportation

Regarding the stopping of exports the minister said: "Animal wealth was depleted in the period just ended. Therefore, we want a period in which to build it up. There is a committee to study the sound principles of exportation. This committee has not yet issued its report. The decision about exports will be made in light of this report. Another thing: there are great differences between domestic and world prices. As everybody knows, under ordinary conditions the domestic price should be less than the world price. If these errors are not corrected, we will not permit exports."

Chains of Middlemen

Since the Ministry of Animal Wealth is the specialized agency concerned with this decision, AL-DUSTUR met with Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab, director of the

Department of Veterinary Services. He responded as follows or the subject: "We are, thank God, a country rich in animal wealth. In spite of what it has suffered from drought and desertification, Sudan still counts as one of the African countries richest in animal wealth. Circumstances have indeed occurred leading to a scarcity of cattle in the markets. The principal reason is that, after two good autumn seasons, this year and last, producers have begun rebuilding their herds.

"Second, the regions and provinces have placed restrictions and conditions the importation of livestock into the major cities. This policy has lowered the supply. Nevertheless, the supply arriving in the markets of the capital is still adequate. No one has yet gone to buy meat or a live lamb and found none."

Regarding the rise in prices, Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab said: "This price rise is the result of the inflation that has hit the entire Sudanese economy, the producer as well as other people. Prices are high because there are too many chains of middlemen. There is also a monopolistic tendency in the cattle or meat trade. A small number of people--no more than 4, though in the past there used to be more than 14--dominate the meat trade in the capital. These men have become able to store any number of animals, feed has become cheap and so they can store them. Then they slaughter a small number of animals so as to obtain high prices. Thus they have come to dominate the market. This is the main reason behind the rise in prices. Although this rise has its justification, if the state exerted itself a bit, it would be able to reduce prices and control trade, so that people could eat meat at appropriate prices."

Dangers of Importation

Regarding the dangers involved in importation, Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab said: "Importation of meat from a foreign country causes us to lose our credibility, for Sudan was known as 'the foodbasket of the world.' The importation of meat or livestock into Sudan would be fraught with very great dangers, which I can explain as follows:

"First, if we assume, for example, that we wish to import live animals, these live animals, according to well-known international laws, will have to be imported from their native country or country of origin. This requires that the people responsible for imports go to that country, study the kinds of diseases found there, and take all the precautions necessary for meat imports, particularly because this is the first time Sudan has imported meat. As for meat imports through a third country, this is something that is rejected throughout the world. Meat is not like other commodities such as oil, which can be imported through a third country.

"Second, when live animals are imported, they will introduce diseases that we did not have previously. This happened earlier with poultry. We imported poultry from a number of countries, with the result that a virus came in from which we are now suffering a great deal and which was unknown previously. We do not have the research, medicines, or preventative measures that will enable us to protect the poultry we have. It is therefore quite possible that a disease presently unknown to Sudan will be introduced by these animals. If we

suppose that a different kind of tick might enter Sudan--it could easily do so because ticks are easily carried in the ear of an animal--if we assume this, combatting the disease might cost us a great deal.

"Third, as for the breed to be imported, if we want to import animals of a high-quality breed, their price will certainly be higher than the price of the animals we have now. There is thus no need to import animals from abroad, for they certainly will not be cheaper than the animals available here.

"Fourth, these imported animals will need a special quarantine station, the present quarantine station in Port Sudan being an export rather than an import station. As soon as imports begin, exports will have to be stopped, meaning that Sudan could be an importing country only after stopping exports. Only if Sudan had two different quarantine stations or ones remote from each other could it both export and import. Importing animals is a costly operation; the animals in route from port to the points of consumption will need fodder, and there are drought regions on the route that will multiply the cost."

Problem of Storage

Concerning the problem of storage, Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab said: "We have precautionary measures concerning meat. But if we want to be a meat-importing country, storage facilities will be required. There are various kinds of storage, one of them being the cold chain. Refrigerated or frozen meat would consequently have to travel from the place of origin in refrigerators of the required temperature, either refrigerated or frozen, until it reached the consumer. If we want to import meat through Khartoum airport, it will have to be stored in refrigerators or freezers upon arrival, and when it leaves these refrigerators, the trucks or other transport will have to be at the same temperature until the meat reaches the consumer. There will then have to be an air-conditioned supermarket or one with large refrigerators for storing meat until it reaches the home refrigerator."

The director of veterinary services stated that if the cold chian were interrupted at any of its links, "the temperature of the meat would rise, and the juices of the meat would drip away. The remaining meat would be nothing but fiber without juices. Meat also oxidizes. Its color darkens, and its appearance consequently becomes disagreeable and unappetizing. Conditions would also be suitable for bacteria to multiply greatly. Upon freezing, bacteria do not die; they merely go dormant. If refrigeration is interrupted and the temperature rises, the bacteria multiply."

In short, Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab thinks that "from a practical point of view, the operation of importing meat is impossible because of the need for infrastructures. If we wanted to provide these in Sudan now, I believe their cost would be not less than $20 million or $30 million. The capacity of the refrigerators at al-Kadru quarantine station is no more than 50 or 60 tons. Consequently, we cannot import meat and store it in these refrigerators. Furthermore, the operation would be performed manually and slowly, meaning that the merchant or importer would be subject to very large losses if the importation operation were carried on without thorough preparation for it."

Islamic Meat

Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab said that the imported meat would have to be subjected to a health inspection supervised by the importing country. "When we used to export, the countries that imported from us stipulated that they would send meat inspectors or veterinarians to stay with us to observe and follow the operations from the date the animals were received at al-Kadru station until their delivery as meat. This, of course, demands that we supervise the meat and how it is slaughtered. We will have to ascertain how it was slaughtered and whether this was done in the Islamic way. Such an importation operation would not lack opportunities for cheating. Old animals that had become useless for other purposes might be slaughtered, or animals might be quickly fattened with illegal hormones. This will naturally harm the consumer. These are some of the dangers involved in the importation of meat or livestock."

Where Does the Solution Lie?

But what is the solution? Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab replied: "I believe that Sudan is in good condition and that the current price rise, in spite of the fact that it has justifications, can be traced to monopolization. If the state therefore came in as a buyer, it could lower prices. It could control domestic trade as much as it concentrates on controlling foreign trade. It could come in with a great deal of capital to compete with the merchants who now dominate the market. As for us, we have made many studies of the subject, but these have not been implemented because the monopolization operations are connected to elements which, while I would not call them corrupt, have not had an interest in helping the Sudanese people avoid this stage. We have proposed that trade be carried on by the live weight of the animal and have readied the scales. This method is used throughout the world, because when you buy by live weight, you know how you will sell the slaughtered animal by weight. We have also proposed that meat be traded by wholesale, i.e., that all meat be gathered at one place, its price fixed, and that it then be sold to the butchers. I think this operation is connected with reform of the slaughterhouses. There is no reason for slaughtering in homes or in popular slaughterhouses so that people do not fall victim to fleecing by the butchers. An example is the Abu-Sa'd slaughterhouse, where slaughtering is performed by a person who increases the price every day as he sees fit. Slaughtering animals thus should take place in legally regulated government slaughterhouses. This requires, nay demands, that people invest in this matter of slaughterhouses. If you had modern slaughterhouses, you would have modern equipment for slaughtering, storage, and transportation, and this would enable the consumer to take advantage of these services."

Disorder

Concerning the size of the sums (more than 6 million Sudanese pounds a day) that change hands, though in an unregulated manner, in the meat markets of the capital, Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab said: "The state must enter the meat industry in an orderly and scientific manner and not leave it in its present haphazard state. The meat trade was never at any time something left to take place haphazardly. Most of the commerce carried on today in the market is

commerce in meat. In view of the sums that change hands in the markets of the capital every day, how can we leave sums of such size to change hands haphazardly, so that the merchants alone profit from them?" He added: "There is no justification for the rise of meat prices to this level. An increase in prices was expected; what was not expected was that they would reach 15, 16, or 20 Sudanese pounds a kg, as at present. If the state wanted to help people, especially in the difficult conditions they are experiencing now--these, I think, are temporary and will come to an end at the end of this year--the state, in my opinion, could import frozen or dressed chickens. It could import canned fish. It could also import beans, dried favas, legumes, dairy products, and other things to help the citizens."

Unsuccessful Decision

Continuing, Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab explained: "In spite of my very great confidence in the minister of commerce, who is trying as much as possible to come down on the side of the people in this matter, he has not succeeded in solving this problem. We have explained to him everything related to the subject and have great hope that he will change his mind." Thus Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab commented on the opening of the door to imports. He indicated: "Although we explained to the minister of commerce that meat import operations through a third country are unacceptable, we sent two of our colleagues to find out the terms of the recently announced deal for importing animals from Port Said and to prepare a report on it. We will make our decision on the basis of this report, lest we be described as being basically against the decision of the minister of commerce."

Concerning technical opinion about the decision, Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab said: "Unfortunately, we find that the law is weak in this direction. Specifically, laws on importation abroad are in the hands of the veterinary authorities. Sudanese law, in its old form, placed all powers in the hands of the president of the republic, i.e., in the hands of the head of state or the prime minister at the present time. According to the law, the former president of the republic was supposed to authorize the minister of agriculture or the minister of animal wealth to make such decisions. Now, however, the decision is clearly in the hands of the minister of commerce. While we are dealing with the law technically, he is operating commercially. Even in this respect, the law is not strong. Inasmuch as the government is one and is a democratic government, and in view of the fact that specialists enjoy great regard within the government apparatus, we believe our opinion will be heard in the end."

Complicating the Solution

As for the decision to halt exports, Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab made it clear that it was an unsound decision, "in spite of what was happening." He said: "This is the third time that exports have been stopped. Every time it stops, meat prices rise. Stopping exports has never solved the problem of the domestic market. Exporters play a role in supplying the domestic market with quantities of meat. They obtain many animals, some of which are exported, and some of which are sold domestically. Stopping exports without government entry into the domestic market as a buyer has left matters in the hands of a

small number of speculators. If we become an importing country, we shall lose our foreign markets and make the problem even more difficult, since at the present time we cannot open markets--not on account of our animals, but on account of the state of health of the animals or of the country in general. People come to us and argue that we have such-and-such animal diseases and that they fear that our animals will introduce these diseases into their country. Take our Saudi brothers as an example. In our discussions with them, we tell them that we have been exporting meat to them since 1902. In the last 40 years, for which adequate reports and information are available, we challenge you: During this period, has any disease come to you from Sudan? They answer us that absolutely no disease has come to them from Sudan. They acknowledge that Sudan has a veterinary cadre not available in the African world or in the entire Arab East, that there are excellent health measures in Sudan, and that they trust veterinary doctors in Sudan and all the measures that are taken. Although we know that they are wary about importation, this wariness may be overcome by our efforts through the Saudi minister of agriculture, efforts that have now reached the king. However, this operation of importing animals from abroad may make this wariness less likely to go away. They may argue that animals coming from those countries may carry new, previously unknown diseases. Thus, the importation of animals will complicate the present disease picture and will demand extraordinary efforts for its treatment. So it is not necessary to eat meat every day. People can think of substitutes: beans, fava beans, legumes, etc."

Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab stated that if it is desired to carry out this importation operation, it will require a year. He pointed out: "When it discusses this decision, which has not been studied with the specialists, the ministry of commerce will find that the operation, i.e., importation, cannot be carried out earlier than in a year and that it will cost not under $20 million, because it requires refrigerators, storage facilities, refrigerated trucks, and a distribution chain. Why go to all this trouble?"

Animal Loss

On this subject, Dr Hasan Ibrahim Khattab said: "In North Kordofan, North Darfur, White Nile, and the Eastern Region, we have lost many animals. In almost all these areas, we have lost the animals that are kept with families, either through death or through sale or slaughter. Range animals, on the other hand, have mostly migrated to the south of Sudan. The spread of fly-borne disease has led to the loss of a portion of the latter animals. Generally, we can say that we have lost 25 percent of our animal wealth in the last 3 years. As for small animals (sheep and goats), available information indicates that the entire loss will have been replaced by the end of this year because of two good autumns and the fecundity of the animals (each animal gives birth twice a year and produces more than 4 animals in 1 year)."

Judging the Experiment

To complete the picture concerning the minister of commerce's decision, we met with Harun al-'Awad, secretary of the Sudanese Chamber of Commerce. He said: "In fact, the low number of Sudanese cattle offered for sale can be

traced to a number of factors, the most important of which is the death of a large number of animals as a result of the disaster of drought and desertification that swept the country in the years just ended, in addition to the enormous rise in feed costs and the general economic inflation that in turn caused an increase in the price of all commodities. Meat prices increased in accordance with these increases. This autumn, thank God, promises abundant fodder, and this is a clear indicator of a gradual decrease in prices until they reach their customary level.

"Although the Sudanese government's resorting to meat imports is something that at first evokes surprise, in view of the fact that Sudan has never in its history passed through such an experience, the surprise vanishes as soon as we realize that the government was forced in this direction. In past years, we have imported corn, even though we produce it in abundance. Nevertheless, the general principle of a meat-producing country importing meat is something abnormal. As for a real evaluation of this experiment, it is at present hard to make any forecast until after an actual plan for the cost is formulated and the meat is offered on the market. Afterwards, we shall be able to pass judgment for or against."

Scheduling Exportation

'Uthman Ahmad Yasin, head of the butchers, gave his opinion about the problem and commented as follows on the experiment:

"There is no doubt that the fewer animals the producers have, the more the price of meat rises. This means that meat is subject to the law of supply and demand. This price rise was due to many factors known to the entire Sudanese people. Among them were the drought and desertification, with the consequent shrinkage and loss of a not insignificant number of cattle. In addition, there was the entry of many middlemen into the sale of animals from the producer to the butcher. Also, there were the export and smuggling of a large number of animals out of the country through illegal channels. All this led to the rise in meat prices. What really evokes surprise is that Sudan, which heads the list of meat-exporting nations of the world, should resort to importing meat, especially after the noise the government made about bringing in foreign currency. It has now become clear that this importation does not at all mean the halting of cattle exports. One can refer to the clear meaning of the minister's decision, which stipulates that the decision is temporary and that a new export system will be scheduled, so as to permit exports through official channels. If this means anything, it means that there is still animal wealth that can be exported. However, this requires greater meshing of official and popular effort than is now occurring."

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ACCUSATIONS AGAINST FORMER PRIME MINISTER MZALI DISCUSSED

Mzali Refutes Accusations

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Nov 86 pp 13-16

[Interview with Former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali by Khaldun al-Sham'ah and al-Salami al-Hasani]

[Text] For months, the issue of former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali has dominated all of the country's political events and has become an important political event watched with interest by national and foreign public opinion by virtue of the contradictions and mutual accusations Mohamed Mzali and his former colleagues make against each other. While Mzali focuses his accusations on the arrest and "torture" to which his family members have been subjected and on the "plot" which motivated the head of the state to relieve him from his position, successive reports continue to be circulated on the possibility of subjecting Mohamed Mzali to a second trial on numerous charges, including misconduct. In his press statements, Mohamed Mzali has accused several figures, including Hedi Mabrouk, the minister of foreign affairs and former ambassador to Paris, of being behind his dismissal and behind the "serious" accusations made against him.

Through numerous interviews with all the parties concerned in Tunisia and abroad, AL-DUSTUR gathered enough information and opinions on Mohamed Mzali's case. Rather than publish this information without verification or publish Mohamed Mzali's statements and give the others the right to respond, AL-DUSTUR went to Mohamed Mzali directly and presented to him these accusations to answer them and to clarify his position on the accusations and on the issue being currently witnessed by the country. At the same time, AL-DUSTUR went to Hedi Baccouche, the head of the Socialist Destour Party, and to Hedi Mabrouk, the minister of foreign affairs, to ask them about the situation concerning Mzali's case so that the reader may see the two viewpoints.

AL-DUSTUR interviewed Mohamed Mzali in his voluntary "exile." We found the man extremely concerned and worried about his family's condition. This seems to be the issue preoccupying all his time and about which he talks to his visitors, refuting the reports or statements which deny that his family members have been subjected to torture. Mohamed Mzali said that all his family members, including Mezri Chekir, are innocent, that their only fault is that they belong to his family, and that they have committed no violation of the law.

[Question] But why did Mohamed Mzali leave Tunisia? What motivated him to depart if he is not, in fact, guilty and if the accusations made against him at present are untrue? What is the decisive element that made him take his decision to leave despite the material, moral, and political risks involved in this decision?

[Answer] When rumors and reports multiplied, some people, including a member of the opposition, contacted me and said: "They will harass you. You must leave." They offered me a departure plan but I took the plan of Rached 'Azzouz, who was not one of my friends. When I was minister of defense, 'Azzouz was an air force lieutenant. I then lost track of him. He set up a research office. He then started to take part with us in athletic activities. He was shy in my presence because I was his superior and his senior in age. He participated from afar. On holidays, 'Azzouz may have come with other people to congratulate me. Rached 'Azzouz told me that he had a plan for me to leave the country, which shows that there is still some good in this world. Meanwhile, those who had been applauding me until they could applaud no more turned against me. Despite this, I departed later when the regime and the gang surrounding the president engaged in illegitimate acts against me. I had a number of invitations, including an invitation for 10 July 1986 from my friend Samarang, the Olympic Committee chairman. So I told him that I would leave in a month or a month and a half because Republic Day (25 July 1986) and President's Day (3 August 1986) were coming up and because I did not want my departure to be misinterpreted. It was said that Mohamed Mzali's wife, accompanied by her son, was arrested and that a briefcase full of money was seized with her. This is madness. In any case, I said that I would not leave. I decided to leave on 19 August 1986. On that day, I took along my wife and children to see me off and not to accompany me, contrary to what was said. At the airport, I checked in my bags and went through customs and the police. This is recorded in my passport, along with the airport tax seal and stamp (Mzali showed us his passport which shows the departure stamp and no cancellation mark). This means that I was departing legally on 19 August 1986. But then a police officer caught up with me at the airport and said: Don't leave. I asked: Why? He answered: Don't leave. I asked him to contact the minister of interior. But he contacted the minister and did not allow me to talk to him. I told him to ask the president to permit me to leave. Fifteen minutes later, he again told me: No. Meanwhile, the plane was waiting for me. I asked him to contact Mansour Skhiri (the head of the president's office) and I was told that he was not in Monastir but in Tunis, even though I had seen him on television with the president. I told him to contact Saida Sassi (the president's niece) so that I may talk with people who can make a decision without connections. I was told that she was in the president's bedroom. The clock showed 1430 and the president was, in principle, having his midday nap. I returned home and next morning contacted Rachid Sfar (the prime minister). It was the only time I contacted him by the direct line to his office, which had been my office for 6 years. I explained the situation to him and he told me that he was aware of the situation and that the president wished me to stay in Tunisia. I told him that I would send him the personal and official invitations I had from Chirac, Samaranch, and the Olympic Committee tasked with organizing the world swimming championship in Madrid. I then sent the file of invitations and a message in French to Rachid Sfar. By 6 September 1986, I

had received no response, whether negatively or positively. So I arranged my affairs and departed normally and without any problem, using a passport.

[Question] Let us turn to the issue of the medical file, which constitutes a major accusation against you. I have heard many talk about it. The gist of this issue is that during the interrogation of Rifat Dali, your son-in-law, it became evident that there is a medical file on the president's health.

[Answer] The fact is that the issue concerns my son-in-law's son-in-law, Fathi Dali. The police stormed his home and asked him: Where is the medical file?

[Question] But is it true that there is a medical file?

[Answer] It does not exist at all. Where are the doctors? They are well known, namely: Amor Chedli, Mohamed Ban Ismail, and Zammarli. Ask them to find out the truth. Is it possible that I would think of such a thing. I am accused of over-loving Bourguiba. See my speech to the Arab-European summer meeting and read what I said about Bourguiba (the date of the speech coincides with the day Mzali was relieved from the premiership). I said: I assure you the president is in good health. All people are aware of my past, my ideas, and my love for Bourguiba. Some French and Swiss ministers told me: We have known you for 10 years and every time you talk about Bourguiba you venerate him. They also told me: We are aware of your loyalty to Bourguiba. The advanced countries ridicule the trumped up medical-file issue.

When I was prime minister, I gave no thought to compiling a medical file. If the accusation is true, then give me the proof.

[Question] The issue may be connected with a plan to compile a medical file and to have a medical certificate issued to testify that Bourguiba is incompetent.

[Answer] Meaning that what counts is intention. Such a thing may have happened in my dreams, but I don't recall it. They may have recorded my dreams and may have become students of Freud. But in my conscious state, this has never occurred to my mind because it would negate my thoughts and my history since I was a child.

[Question] There is another charge which claims that you paid monthly salaries to nearly 600 persons who were not state employees.

[Answer] Six hundred? The answer to this charge is: Why don't they publish a list of names? Are they people or demons? When they make an accusation, they must support it with proof. I am not saying that this is not true. What I am saying is: Where is the list of names? If they find a single person who is not a state employee, excluding five or six people attached to my office the same as others are attached to the ministers' office, then we can talk about this accusation. All the premiership employees were appointed before my arrival. Even Mrs Souad, the private secretary, has been an employee of the premiership for 30 years and has held her position since the days of Beji Ladgham and Hedi Nouira. Haven't they also accused me of having 130 mistresses?

[Question] We haven't heard this accusation.

[Answer] They have given me extraordinary power, may God reward them for it!

[Question] It is also said that you paid salaries to nearly 200 Tunisian and foreign journalists to enhance the prime minister's reputation.

[Answer] To polish the image, like shoeshine boys who polish shoes! Let them produce a list of these journalists. In any case, if you count all the journalists in Tunisia you will find that they don't add up to 200 journalists.

[Question] It is said that the list includes 200 Tunisian and foreign journalists, including the chief editors of Arab magazines published in Europe.

[Answer] This means that you (addressing AL-DUSTUR's chief editor) may be one of them, meaning that without you the list would include 199 names. But to be serious, this accusation is the biggest insult to the Tunisian press. I would not dare make such an accusation against the press. It is strange.

[Question] There is also the issue of the dome in your home in Soukra.

[Answer] If you go to Tunis, call Mrs Mzali, go to my house, and see for yourself. I bought my house in 1965 and the president helped me. But in contrast with the other ministers, he did not help me with money. Mohamed Sayah has taken tens of millions and he lives in Hedi Nouira's house, which belongs to the state, while renting his own house to Lebanon's ambassador. All those who are trying me today have been accused of theft, cheating, and manipulation. I have been living in my house for years and I bought it as an old house and remodelled it. My wife and I paid for the house and for the remodelling costs over a period of 20 years. All that there is to this issue is that I have in my house a reception hall which I wanted to remodel in the Tunisian style. I contacted a relative with experience in this area. He is Mesmoudi, a man who is engaged in the traditional industries and is married to my sister-in-law. After consultation, we contacted a self-employed Tunisian named Hedi Morabet. I agreed with him and we bought aged wood. All the bills were in my office and they have been seized by the police, along with my other papers and writings. The man did the work in 6 months and I paid him in installments 3 years ago. I have the bills. In any case, it is a matter of no more than 12,000 or 13,000 dinars ($26,000) at the most. Let them open the files of other ministers and officials who built private homes and imported materials from abroad. I acted like any other Tunisian citizen. Let whoever doubts my word go see my home. Perhaps all there is to the matter is the fence, the barbed wire, and the guardhouses around my house. They are the ones who built them and I have had nothing to do with this. If there is justice in the country, then let them present the bills and I am prepared to discuss them. I am prepared to answer for the expenses item by item before a Tunisian or international arbitration committee. What is important is to have the guarantees of justice.

[Question] The other accusation about which all people, including the man-in-the-street, talk is: If Mohamed Mzali does not feel that he is guilty, then why does he flee the country?

[Answer] I have answered this. When I received invitations from abroad, I gave the matter thought and decided to leave after celebration of the Republic Day and of President's Day so that Saida Sassi and Mansour Skhiri may not spread rumors. But they arrested my son and then my son-in-law and I wanted to leave but they stopped me. So I understood that they planned to harass me but I forestalled them before they could subject me to torture and gloating, knowing that this accusation would be made against me. But if there were independent and objective justice, I would not have decided to leave.

[Question] So you are sure of your innocence?

[Answer] Do you think that Mokhtar, my son whom they will sentence to a 10-year or 20-year prison term, is guilty? Has my son embezzled any money?

[Question] At the outset, rumors were circulated to the effect that you had not been allowed to leave. The rumors were then denied and it was said that you had been allowed to leave. Was there intervention?

[Answer] Not at all, despite the intervention of the Saudi brothers, the French, and others. Samaranch sent the president a message appealing to him to permit me to leave because a Greek colleague of ours had died and the Olympic Committee chairman wanted me to accompany him to the funeral. But he has received no answer so far.

Are there other accusations?

[Question] No.

[Answer] I have an accusation to make against them. If I have all these faults, then why didn't they notice them until now. Why so quickly and suddenly after the president had just reaffirmed his confidence in me?

[Question] Because you were in power and in control.

[Answer] What is the difference between Congress Day (when Bourguiba reaffirmed his confidence in Mzali) and the day I was relieved from my position? What is the difference? The men surrounding the president were the same and the police were the same. It is as if they were in darkness and then a flash of light hit them and they saw Mzali as the man they now accuse. What happened?

[Question] Why did they do what they have done and why at this particular time?

[Answer] It is a coup which they had previously planned. It is a coup of falsehood and of greed for power. They have managed, without tanks and without elections, to seize power and to rule in Bourguiba's name. After removing his son, they removed his wife, the good and poor ministers, myself, all the managers of the newspapers, a number of general directors of government agencies, and a number of bank managers and ambassadors. This means a coup and means that there is a new regime. If the matter concerns Mohamed Mzali, then why have they removed the others?

[Question] Who stands behind all this? How can it be explained to the Arab reader?

[Answer] I tell the Arab reader and the other readers generally that Saida Sassi has been able to gain psychological control over her uncle, the president, and has, as a result of this influence, gained the president's blind trust. If she tells him something is white, then he says it is white and if she tells him something is red, he says it is so. I personally had experience with this influence which surfaced in the president's removal and then divorce of his wife, the removal of his son and about 10 ministers, and in my removal, along with a large number of officials. This means that there has been a complete change. Saida Sassi is the only one remaining behind. I don't know objectively but I do know that Hedi Mabrouk is behind Saida, and I say this frankly. Mebrouk is the smartest, wickedest, and wiliest of the lot, and I mean this in the evil sense of the word. There is also Mansour Skhiri. Each of these people works for his own ends, believes that power is easy to gain, and prepares to become prime minister and then president without any effort or struggle, or popular or partisan asset. They considered me a stumbling block because the president had great confidence in me and because I have, and I say this with utter modesty, an evident popular and international presence. Let me explain to you how this erosion developed. The point that made the president wonder and withdraw his confidence from me is Arabization. The only thing for which the president faulted me before, and even after, my dismissal is Arabization. I have been persecuted because of Arabization. In 1970 and 1973 they ousted me from the Ministry of Education and sent me to the Ministry of Health because of Arabization. But I returned to Arabize education. They have answered my statements, claiming that I did not engage in Arabization. Before the party congress convened, President Bourguiba told me one day: "Mr Mohamed, you have done more Arabization than necessary." The fact is that I did the Arabization in 1976 when Hedi Nouira was the prime minister and I was just a minister of education. The president and Hedi Nouira signed the education charter. Ten years later, they remembered that I was minister of education and that I had engaged in Arabization. I answered the president: "This is so that our children may be rooted in the Tunisian Arab soil and may then learn French as a living language in the fourth grade." But the president reiterated the same thing on the following day and continued to repeat it daily until he finally told me: "You must back down on Arabization." I responded: "How can we back down? However, Mr President, we will task the minister of education with preparing a plan to train teachers because the issue is not connected with the number of hours but with the availability of teachers to teach French. The problem is that the standard cannot improve unless the teachers' standard is improved." The president agreed with this. But on the following day, after having discussed the matter with the group, the president said to me: "This question of training teachers needs 10 years." This is because the group had told him that Mohamed Mzali wants to gain time. It so happened that the results of the baccalaureate examination were announced on the second day of the congress. The baccalaureate examination standards had been modified to make this examination the equivalent of a university entrance examination. For the first time ever, the results of the first session of the examination were announced without those of the second session, which comes 2 days after the first session. The success rate in the first session was 13

percent and in the second session 25 percent. They told the president that the success rate was just 13 percent and they reiterated such reports in the information media whereas the fact is that the rate was 25 percent. They told the president that the reason behind the poor results was the Arabization which Mohamed Mzali supported. This made the president angry. They also told him that Arabization led to the formation of the Muslim Brotherhood and to the drop in the standard. Meanwhile, every impartial observer and every journalist doing his job can notice that the generations affected by the educational reform which was championed by Mohamed Mzali and which led to the Arabization of education entered the fifth secondary grade in October 1986 whereas all those nominated for the baccalaureate in 1986 had been taught in French. Why these lies? This is how they lied to the president so that I may look doubly criminal in his eyes for the Arabization and for the deterioration of the standard whereas I am a reformer who believes in the Arab nationality and in originality and who is proud of what he, along with his colleagues the men of education, has accomplished. After hearing the news of my dismissal on television, I asked for a meeting with the president to bid him farewell. Mansour Skhiri arranged an appointment for me on Friday whereas I had been relieved on Tuesday. When I met the president, he welcomed me and said: "Mr Mohamed, you have done too much Arabization." This is the only fault. The last word the president said to me was Arabization. I said to him: "Mr President, you formed a committee for the Franconization of education and for teaching French with Tunisian dinars and with the people's money as of the second elementary grade. This is something that has never been done since independence. I hope you will find qualified teachers so that the schools may not be turned into mere rooms where students are guarded." He bade me farewell and asked me to convey his greetings to my wife.

[Question] How was the meeting?

[Answer] It was a friendly, ordinary meeting in which no political issue other than Arabization was raised.

[Question] Why did the group which you say is behind your dismissal choose this particular time?

[Answer] Because they were running out of time. They launched the process to destroy me as of June 1984. After eliminating Wassila, Bourguiba Junior, Mezri Chekir, Bechir Ben Slama, and Frej Chedli, they took the Religious Trusts and the Ministry of Interior away from me and removed my wife from the government. I endured patiently, telling myself that the president had confidence in me and that he would not change his opinion. But when they noticed that the overwhelming majority of the party congress supported me, they appointed the Central Committee without election for the first time since 1934. Had the Central Committee been elected, a number of those who are in power now would not have succeeded because the conferees knew that they are dirty, soiled graft-takers. After the Central Committee members were appointed, I met with the president to appoint the general secretary, treasurer, and party director. The meeting was attended by Mansour Skhiri and Saida Sassi who said to me: "The president has forgotten to tell you that assistant general secretaries must be appointed." I looked at the president and he said: "Correct." The

president then asked Saida Sassi to list the names and she said: "Amor Chedli, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and Mansour Skhiri." Despite this, I announced the president's decision. On the following day, he told me: For the benefit of the Ministry of Family budget, we have to remove Fathia Mzali from the government.

[Question] It is understood from your words that Bourguiba is incapable of decision-making.

[Answer] Bourguiba possesses political intelligence and intuition. But by virtue of his age, he can no longer move around and listen to all people. In the past, he used to listen to the pros and cons, opinions and counter-opinions. But then I could not meet with him alone. This was not the problem because I always told him everything frankly. However, the gang was with him all the time and Saida Sassi kept his company day and night, giving him his sedatives and his sleeping pills at night. I could meet with him for no more than half an hour. They were the ones who supplied him with information. With his intelligence and experience, the president makes decisions in light of the information supplied to him by this group, considering that government is tied to making conclusions on the basis of information.

[Question] There are a large number of former Tunisian politicians and ministers in exile. Despite the well-known and understandable differences, is there a common ground to coordinate their efforts or are there contacts between them?

[Answer] So far, no contact has been made. As for the future, if the efforts of the living forces, whether in the form of the ministers in exile or those at home or the form of the acknowledged opposition parties or the opposition which must be acknowledged one day--if these efforts are united to draw up a program to rescue Tunisia and to lead it democratically and peacefully toward greater freedom and pluralism and greater social justice, then I welcome any such efforts and I will join them.

[Question] Do you have a program that can be projected practically?

[Answer] My program is well known. I am in the process of drafting a program which I will declare to the citizens in my capacity as a Tunisian struggler. I still retain my rights in the Socialist Destour Party but I acknowledge the other parties.

The truth is that my efforts are currently devoted to defending my family, honor, and children. Four of my sons are in jail, my home has been turned into an orphanage, and they have put my daughter in jail with common criminals. They have beaten my children and son-in-law, breaking his ribs and causing him to lose feeling in one arm. He was kept in precautionary detention for 2 months and then taken to the military hospital. Why? Now, all my children, my wife, and my relatives are denied passports. When I fled, they surrounded my house, seized my papers, denied my children milk and food from outside, and threw the children some bread, which they ate with water. This went on for 4 days. Is this Bourguiba's Tunisia? I am making these statements abroad

perhaps these people will desist, will task me personally, and will lift their hands from my family. I do not fear them and I am not intimidated by them. A number of intellectuals, heads of state, and politicians have intervened for humanitarian reasons. However, I stand fast and my children and grandchildren stand fast because our conscience is clear and our morale high. But their acts harm our country's reputation. I will reveal numerous facts so that the public may know who is the thief and who has stolen the people's money and the power.

[Question] Some observers were surprised by your defense of Wassila Ben Ammar, the president's divorced wife, in a press statement you made. Have you now developed a clear position toward the president's ex-wife?

[Answer] I have spoken of Wassila and of Habib Bourguiba Junior as further proof that Saida Sassi has now become the woman with the power. Saida was able to bring about Wassila's divorce. So what chance do you think Mohamed Mzali stood? I said and continue to say that despite my disagreement with Wassila, if she had remained the president's wife, she would not have permitted my children, my grandchildren, and my wife to be persecuted. Their only fault is that they carry my name. This is all there is to the Wassila matter. So far, she has not contacted me and I have not contacted her or others. I have my ideas and Wassila has hers. I have mentioned her as proof of Saida Sassi's cunning and influence.

I say that if Saida Sassi persists, she will destroy the reputation of her uncle, the head of the state, with the rising generations because one can do to a friend what enemies cannot.

[Question] What are the broad lines of your political plan while you are out of Tunisia and out of power?

[Answer] First, this gang must be eliminated. Then President Bourguiba or whoever succeeds him must form a national salvation government working on the basis of reconciliation among Tunisians and for free democratic elections that will produce representatives the people want. If this is not done, the country will, God forbid, be threatened with an outbreak of violence, and God knows what the consequences will be.

[Question] But you were behind the division of the Tunisian General Labor Federation, the imprisonment of Habib Achour, and the blow to the unionist movement.

[Answer] I am the one who released Habib Achour from jail and contributed to reinstating him as chairman of the federation. We were in agreement for 4 years. My proof is his statements. We then disagreed for well-known reasons. We put him under house arrest and I said at the National Assembly in November 1985: I don't wish to put you in jail. At the time, the president had been urging me daily for a month or two to jail Achour and I kept on telling him: "Mr President, Achour is more dangerous in jail than outside it." The head of the state then ordered, in the presence of Mansour Skhiri and Zine El Abidine, the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior to initiate the proceedings for Achour's arrest. I did the impossible to obstruct the arrest.

As for the federation issue, it is connected with political action in which I took part on the president's instructions and of which I was convinced. Achour dismissed some people from the federation, a rebellion developed against Habib Achour, and the National Federation was formed. Who expelled Bouraoui and his faction? It was not I but Habib Achour who did so out of malice. This is wrong. When the rebels visited me at my office, I told them that I was against the formation of a national federation, not out of love for Achour but because the presence of two federations will lead to acts of oneupmanship. What is my fault in this connection?

Hedi Mabrouk's Viewpoint

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[Interview with Hedi Mabrouk, Tunisian minister of foreign affairs, by al-Salami al-Hasani]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR interviewed Hedi Mabrouk on the occasion of his assumption of the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs after serving as his country's ambassador to Paris for a period of 13 years. The interview's primary objective was to examine Tunisian diplomacy in the coming phase and the changes Mabrouk plans to introduce and also to hear Mabrouk's opinion on the issue of ex-Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

[Question] Let us begin with the issue of ex-Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali who accuses you personally of being behind his dismissal and behind the president's decision to relieve him. What is your opinion of this accusation?

[Answer] What I wish to say here with deep regret and pain is that Tunisia's reputation has been distorted. Mzali was perhaps in an emotional state and not in self-control when he left Tunisia and came to Europe. He has made accusations against the present Tunisian regime, and Mzali is one of this regime's founders. He was minister for 30 years and prime minister for 6 years. What is painful is that he could have done without these accusations that do him no good and could have been a more highly respected figure. The second point is that it is wrong for Mohamed Mzali to imagine that I played any role in this connection. I do not say this out of modesty but because my role was here in Paris and because I was remote from Tunisia. Even if I have some contacts, such a thing cannot be done from afar and I could not remove him while I was in Paris. I was as far as I could be from playing any role against him. I don't imagine that my helping him when he was prime minister, my visits to him, my receiving him at the embassy, and my introducing him to this or that French notable was for any purpose other than sincerely serving my country and the figure whom the president appointed as prime minister. How could I have been against him when I had rendered him all this assistance? But during the last 3 months of his premiership, he engaged in acts and practices which, of course, drove me away from him, but without malice or ill will on my part. I forgive him and I ask God to forgive him. I bear him no malice but I do feel pained. I will not conceal from you the fact that when he left Tunisia and took these positions, I took a stance and expressed my opinions to foreign figures to protect my country and my country's regime. I would have

been extremely happy if he had not acted against his country and its reputation. But this is his affair and I cannot give him lessons in patriotism. He is better aware of what he is doing. I do not agree with him in this regard but I assert that I have not reviled Mzali in the past and I will not revile him now or in the future. All there is to the matter is that when Mzali engages in revilement, I will safeguard my country's dignity. As for his ouster from power, it is for two reasons: On the one hand, his actions did not please the man who appointed him prime minister. In our system, the head of state is the man with the power to make decisions. When Mzali says that so and so and such and such told the president this or that or curried favor with the president, the president has his intelligence, genius, and knowledge of affairs and it is not easy to influence him. On the other hand, we are transient officials. Mzali was prime minister and was then relieved from his position but he still had his Olympic, cultural, and athletic responsibilities. From experience, when Bourguiba terminates somebody's responsibilities under a certain circumstance, he may assign this person other responsibilities under different circumstances. I am not saying that Mzali will return as prime minister. But the president may appoint him to a parliamentary or other tasks or to nothing. What is important is that one's conscience be clear. But when Mzali left Tunisia in the manner in which he did, he aroused some suspicion. It is impossible for me to say that this suspicion emanates from dishonesty. This is not my business. History, the people, and the courts, if necessary, will make the judgment in this connection. If Mzali were in Tunisia, he would be able to answer people when they ask why this or that thing happened. But his absence does him no good, especially when he makes accusations connected with Tunisia's reputation. For example, when he said that his son-in-law was persecuted and tortured, Dr Sadoun Zammarli, the head of the Human Rights Commission--a man well known for his uprightness and a man who often took positions against the government when he found that his message dictated such positions--issued a statement asserting that he visited the person concerned and did not see any traces of torture or of broken ribs. When Mzali was in power, he employed some undemocratic methods. Some of his colleagues can attest to this. They left the government and he persecuted their children. I repeat that I wish to steer clear of all this and to state clearly that I aspire for nothing. Let Mzali rest assured that neither he nor others will find me blocking their ceaseless pursuit of the presidency while Bourguiba is still alive. It is impossible for me, and I say this for the first time, to imagine that I will play role in government after Bourguiba. My task and my activity will end with Bourguiba, if I survive him. On the day Bourguiba departs, hopefully after a long life, I will give up all my responsibilities and become a citizen living in my country which, God willing, will be secure against adventures. This is the important thing. I again repeat that I will live as a citizen with no responsibilities in the government, the parliament, administration, the press, or politics--a voting citizen who uses his vote with utter simplicity. I swear this to you on the venerable Koran. This is my conviction and my resolution.

[Question] The observers have noticed that since you took charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you have focused your attention on the Arab Maghreb countries primarily through the current visits, contacts, and negotiations, especially with Libya. You are well known for being a man of mediation and dialogue. Are there new horizons for Tunisian diplomacy?

[Answer] To start, I will tell you that my person is of no importance in this regard. I am not saying this out of modesty. We must get used to the approach of not analyzing policy on the basis of individuals because this phenomenon which exists in a number of Arab countries, including Tunisia, is dangerous. When the task of the individual concerned ends, which is likely and reasonable, political action does not. Political responsibilities emanate from existing circumstances and conditions and from the right person for such circumstances. When circumstances change and political conditions develop in this or that direction, the personality in charge becomes unfit and must be replaced. We must get accustomed to the idea that excluding the historical personalities which have a special political character and status, the others, including myself, must be transient. We must not hold the belief that we are installed in government forever. There are other individuals and an entire new generation which must be given the opportunity. Why should we shut the doors in the face of capabilities and allow government to be monopolized by a narrow circle of individuals who shoulder the responsibility alternately? This is dangerous. On the one hand, the country is denied capabilities and, on the other, when the official in charge departs an upheaval develops. Insofar as I am concerned, I will manage Tunisian foreign policy and diplomacy not just on the basis of my personal opinion and analysis, though important because no man can do a job well unless he is convinced of it, but also on the basis of what the head of the state decides. Our country's foreign policy is determined by Bourguiba. I offer him my proposals and opinions at times and modify whatever information he has with new information he has not received. The foreign policy I will embrace in the first phase--note the word "phase"--in which I will be in charge of foreign policy will rely on three mainstays and on both logic and sentiment. If foreign policy is founded on sentiment and not logic, then it is tantamount to an illusion. If it is founded on interest solely, then it lacks some moral resources. Therefore, the two elements are a must. The first mainstay is embodied in the belief that our area must be united by virtue of history, geography, language, religion, and interest, meaning unity of the Arab Maghreb. On the one hand, this unity represents the people's ambition. On the other, it opens the door for future generations and for the youth so that they may not live in a narrow and closed country because our world is experiencing major economic difficulties emanating from the decline of some economic elements, from social development, and from new elements connected with technological progress. When the youth consider the future horizons on the basis of their society's circumstances, they find these horizons unreassuring. Therefore, we must create that which is compatible with the youth's ambitions. In past centuries, invasions, wars, and expansion nurtured the youth's ambitions. In our society today, there are other ways. It is also necessary to achieve the Arab Maghreb countries' unity in order to counter the European Economic Group and the international blocs and to establish the credibility of our resources and our commercial potential. If for Tunisia alone, it is impossible to build a major plant because the consumer market is small. But if a plant in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, or Libya has the consumer market of all these countries to utilize, then such a plant will be compatible with the economic situation, considering that these countries' population will exceed 100 million people by the year 2000.

The second mainstay is founded on sentimental causes because man does not live by bread alone. This mainstay is represented in our presence in the Arab world. We are saturated with, we cling to, and we are loyal to our Arab Islamic values. We must enter this world to contribute with all the Arab Maghreb's weight to tackling the conditions this world faces. We will thus perform our historic duty with the new strength we add to this Arab and Islamic world.

The third mainstay is that it is wrong to say that it is enough for one to be Arab and Muslim and to be content with Arabism and Islam only. We live in the 20th century and we must open up to the outside world with its sciences and languages. It is a lie when they say that Arabic had declined and retreated and has been destroyed. The number of hours for instruction in Arabic has been increased, as have the hours for instruction in foreign languages in order that our youth may live in their age, not in a closed society that weakens them. We must be strong with our Arabism, Islam, and personality and must be open to the outside world.

[Question] This is insofar as the principles are concerned. But did you find the climate to implement these principles practically when you visited Morocco, Mauritania, and Algeria?

[Answer] There are difficulties and problems. It is a matter of patience, as his excellency the president says. We will not desist and will not abandon this course. We will continue our contacts with this or that side and will try again and again until all the difficulties are overcome gradually and until it becomes obvious that what divides us are trivial or imaginary problems founded on elements that have no weight in history's eyes. Our effort will continue ceaselessly, patiently, and with no letup until we either fully achieve what we seek, or we will create the right conditions for its achievement.

[Question] To solve some of these problems, it is said that there is Tunisian mediation between Morocco and Algeria on the Western Sahara issue.

[Answer] Mediation usually leads to some questions, investigations, and problems. This is why we don't say mediation but say that we are in contact with our brothers in Algeria and Morocco to bring their viewpoints and positions closer to each other.

There are the economic relations also. If trade is established between the Arab Maghreb countries and if a common market is created, I believe that it will then be easy to find a solution to the political problems.

[Question] Is there hope that the negotiations that are taking place or will take place between Libya and Tunisia will produce results on the issue of compensation for the Tunisian workers expelled from Libya, and will this lead to the resumption of diplomatic relations?

[Answer] The Libyan people are our brothers. There are those who imagine that there is rancor between the Libyans and the Tunisians. This is wrong. There were acts which resulted in this estrangement and which had detrimental

moral and material effects on the Tunisian workers and on Tunisian public opinion. When the causes are eliminated, when confidence is restored, when good will is shown, when some considerations are discarded, and when we turn neighborhood into a cause for fraternity and cooperation, then there will be nothing to prevent clearing the air between us.

[Question] Has the PLO departed from Tunisia or does it still use the country as its official headquarters?

[Answer] There are misinterpretations on this issue. When we hosted the Palestinian brothers, we did so under certain circumstances which were experienced by the Arab world and the Palestinian revolution. The Tunisian people opened their hearts to the Palestinian brothers who came with their weapons and munitions. We welcomed them. But we have surpassed those circumstances and the Palestinian people are now thinking of continuing their struggle, not 3,000 km away from Palestine but close to it. The military struggle cannot be continued from Tunisia. The circumstances have changed. There is the military aspect, and this is conducted outside Tunisia. The political aspect and contacts are made in Tunisia. This is what 'Arafat himself decided and declared and what we accepted because it is logical. The decision was made by the Palestinian leadership. Hakam Bal'awi recently contacted the minister of interior to arrange matters on the basis of this decision. In any case, there is no retreat from our position on the Palestinian issue.

Baccouche on Mzali Trial

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Nov 86 p 18

[Interview with Hedi Baccouche, director of the Socialist Destour Party, by al-Salami al-Hasani]

[Text] AL-DUSTUR interviewed Hedi Baccouche, director of the Socialist Destour Party, who is considered the ruling party's political authority on the country's fundamental domestic issues and who is known for his broad interest in this area, in Tunis. This is why the interview has focused on the political conditions within the party on the one hand and on the issue of ex-Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali on the other. In fact, AL-DUSTUR carried to Baccouche a question raised by numerous observers on the team surrounding him and consisting mainly of elements which were within the leftist opposition.

[Baccouche] It is evident that by virtue of my private life, my constitutional activity and commitment, and in my capacity as one of the strugglers tied to the party and its structures, I have a special view which can be described as the Bourguibist view. I am 100 percent partisan. But Bourguiba's party--the Socialist Destour Party--is a party open to all capabilities. Bourguiba worked to introduce into the party people who have now become prominent Destourians. Therefore, when we find a national capability able to work and struggle, we provide it with the means of enthusiastic work within the party. As for some people you refer to, they also have a history within the party. For a time, they departed from the party as part of the organizations and currents which disagree with the party. It is our approach to attract those

who have never been in the party to become its members, not to mention those who were in the party and who have to be returned to it. The same goes for the labor unionists because the party has its popular dimension. It is our task to try to bring unionists at all levels as close as possible to us.

[AL-DUSTUR] I will not ask you why you don't permit the opposition to operate. But I will ask you: Why isn't there an opposition in Tunisia and why has its presence continued to be symbolic opposition?

[Baccouche] The opposition exists in recognized organizations and in salons and coffee shops. It is perhaps because the opposition does not have a clear program or the courage to face the street and the masses. Our presence has not made it easy for an opposition party to become a popular party in 1, 2, or 3 years.

[AL-DUSTUR] It is said that Tunisia will shortly witness political courts to try ex-Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali. What point has this case reached?

[Baccouche] The former prime minister left Tunisia illegally and through irregular channels. In fact, we don't know the reasons for his action because there is no specific case against him. He was, of course, a prime minister who had a position from which he was relieved and all people talk about the aspects of negligence, deficiency, weakness, and poor results during his premiership. Before he fled, there was no cause to prosecute him. After he fled, he made statements and his sons were detained within the framework of the escape issue. The submission of Mzali's case to the court has been delayed because the parliament has to meet to lift his immunity. He has made statements on this issue and drawn the public's attention. There is also the issue of misconduct in the premiership. Financial investigations and interrogations are currently underway and may end up in the courts. His son-in-law has been referred to the courts for marginal activities. As for Mohamed Mzali personally, there is no dossier to refer him to the courts, except for the defection issue and for the current financial investigations.

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IRAQ'S JASIM ON IRANIAN ARMS DEAL, WAR

JN221402 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 Dec 86 pp 31-34

[Interview with Iraqi Information and Culture Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI correspondent Adib Nasir in Baghdad--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Nasir] Was Baghdad surprised by the deal or cooperation among Iran, the United States, and the Zionist entity?

[Jasim] It is a scandal involving Zionist-U.S. cooperation with Iran. Let us shed light on this scandal. The nature of this cooperation did not surprise us because Iran is being supplied with U.S. arms from markets and countries that are associated with the United States. The Iranians themselves say this. What is surprising is that this coordination took place at a high level between the U.S. administration and the ruling establishment in the Zionist entity on one hand and Iranian officials such as Khomeyni, Khamene'i, and Rafsanjani on the other.

Zionist supplies of arms to Iran have been known since the crash of the Argentine plane over Soviet territory. The plane was carrying Israeli arms. The Israelis themselves have often stated that they are supplying Iran with arms. In his justification for receiving arms from Israel, Rafsanjani said that Israel owes Iran $600-700 million. Therefore, there is no surprise about the reality of cooperation but about the level of coordination.

In the past the Americans said they were neutral and don't supply arms to any party, but the contrary was demonstrated. It seems the Zionist influence over the U.S administration is strong. The Americans have stated that Israel facilitated the shipment of arms to Iran. In fact, Israel became the link in the supplies; it has airports, contracts with dealers, and communications with Iranians. Israel played the role of coordinator in the operation.

All this gives credibility to our previous analyses and conclusions and to our statements that the Iranian regime announces one thing and hides many others. The way in which Khomeyni assumed power and his liquidation of the opposition inside Iran was a U.S.-Zionist game to facilitate the implementation of the plot. This plot is represented by the imposed war on Iraq through which they aim to obstruct Iraq's pan-Arab role and to weaken and exhaust its military and economic capabilities. Therefore, the nature of this alliance has

explained everything. From our viewpoint, the matter is no longer conclusions and analyses but documents seen and discussed by the entire world. They are photographic and videotapped documents.

[Nasir] Baghdad was hit by surface-to-surface missiles. When will Iraq retaliate or are the tactics followed now a form of retaliation?

[Jasim] The Iranian regime has recently escalated its indiscriminate shelling of the cities, schools, kindergartens, mosques, and houses. Why are the Iranians shelling the cities? They are doing so for the following reasons:

1. The scandal is putting pressure on the nerves of the Iranian officials. It is the scandal of arms cooperation with Israel and the United States.

2. The disputes among the regime's leaders.

3. The failure of the program to prepare and mobilize 500 regiments.

4. The after-Khomeyni stage or the near the end of Khomeyni stage.

Therefore, they are shelling the cities and expecting Iraq to retaliate. They believe if Iraq retaliates there will be significant bloodshed and pain which will create a dramatic state through which they will mobilize the Iranians, uproot their opposition, and cover their failures on the battlefronts. They also believe that the cities' war will cover up their scandal.

The Iraqi leadership has made a decision not to respond to the shelling of the cities to expose the truth about the Iranian regime. Iraq's plan is to continue striking at military, industrial, and economic areas which supply the Iranian war machine with sources of power. We want to expose the Iranian regime. But, would this continue forever? The leadership's statement is clear. The time and method of retaliation will be determined by accurate timing and Iraq's patience limit. The Iranian regime knows that Iraq possesses a huge, devastating power. Iraq can dispatch 100 planes for each Iranian plane and can launch 100 missiles for each Iranian missile. Therefore, the deterrent operation does exist in terms of capabilities. The Iranian regime knows this and wants us to practice this kind of war, but there is a time for everything.

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CSO: 4400/81

TURKISH PAPER ON PESHMERGA ACTIONS IN IRAQ

NC160850 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 11 Dec 86 p 3

[Report by Husamettin Karanfil: "The Peshmergas Ambush An Iraqi Convoy"]

[Text] Siirt (TERCUMAN)--Clashes between the Peshmergas of the Barzani forces and the Iraqi military are proceeding apace in northern Iraq. The Peshmergas are said to have inflicted a large number of casualties on the Iraqis in their recent attacks.

A clandestine radio has reported that the Peshmergas killed four Iraqi troops and wounded six others in their latest operations. In addition, the radio noted that three Iraqi soldiers died when their vehicle, which was part of a convoy, was destroyed after being hit by a rocket. The station claimed that both sides suffered grave losses during a clash near the village of Surija in Sulaymaniyah Surgah. It also alleged that the Peshmergas inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi troops in an area between Basluca and Susan [both names as published].

Meanwhile, Iraqi and Iranian Air Force units are reported to be continuing their attacks on military, civilian, and economic targets. Hundreds of people are said to have been killed or wounded in Ahvaz as a result of Iraqi raids. Marivan and Robat have also been struck by Iraqi planes.

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CSO: 4400/81

AL-QADISIYAH GOVERNOR DISCUSSES GRAIN PRODUCTION

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Nov 86 p 5

[Article: "Broad Based Preparations in al-Qadisiyah for the Winter Growing Season"]

[Text] Al-Qadisiyah Province is one of the provinces that specializes primarily in the growing of rice, wheat, and barley. It has made quantitative and qualitative strides in the area of crop production through the intensive efforts of the agricultural organization, in earnest and sincere cooperation with the local farmers and cultivators of the province, to implement the ambitious agricultural plans in accordance with the current phase, which demands exceptional effort in the service of the national economy.

These plans include well-studied programs and the use of advanced production means and modern scientific methods in the agricultural process. In addition, they include providing at an early date the needed requirements, including seeds, fertilizers, and machinery. These efforts have reflected positively on the agricultural situation in the governorate.

In order to discover what has been achieved and the size of preparations for the new winter season, AL-THAWRAH met with Mr Zaki Faydi al-'Ali, governor of al-Qadisiyah and the head of the agricultural council in the governorate. He began by saying: "The current phase requires that all resources and capabilities be utilized to cultivate a greater geographical area in order to strengthen and develop the national economy through the resolutions of the 11th agricultural conference in the governorate. This conference was of special importance in view of the fact that it formed a monetary basis for organizing the course of the agricultural process in the governorate in light of the directives of the leader of our course, the fighting commander President Saddam Husayn, given during a meeting of his excellency with members of the General Union of Cooperative Farming Associations in the country. It also formed a basis for diligent work to strengthen the terms of the agricultural plans toward increasing production, improving its quality, and developing this vital and important sector so that it might play a part in providing what is needed by our holy battle and supporting it with the toil and sweat that it needs, and in giving impetus to the pace of agricultural production in order to achieve food security for the people and provide what is needed by the national industry.

The conference's plan for the 1986 summer season and the 1986-87 winter season involved, respectively, the cultivation of 152,300 dunums, of which 63,882 dunums were of rice, and the cultivation of 518,165 dunums during the current winter season, of which 169,112 dunums are to be of wheat and barley."

Rice Cultivation

He pointed out that since rice cultivation is important, in view of the fact that rice is an important food item, during the 1986 summer season efforts conducted in the field were intensified to develop cultivation and improve its quality. During the growing season, the plan was implemented with a 100-percent success rate, since intensive efforts were made which included the dredging of rivers and principal streams by the irrigation offices and the mechanical branch in al-Shamiyah, al-Mihnawiyah, al-Salahiyah, al-Shanafiyah, and Ghamas. They also included the inauguration of the al-Shamiyah and al-Khawrnaq dam projects which helped to distribute water better; also, pumps were provided to the farmers and cultivators, and fertilizers and seed were provided at an early date.

In the area of harvesting and marketing, harvesters and their spare parts were provided, marketing centers were set up, seven new centers were opened, and several committees were formed. In addition, sacks and transport means were prepared, and rural roads were constructed to make it easy to get the harvest to the marketing centers early. Currently, marketing operations are proceeding in a streamlined manner.

Also during the season a campaign to pollinate mechanically the date palms in the governorate was successfully carried out by the offices of the Public Agency for Agriculture in cooperation with the Agricultural Research Center. It was done for the first time in the governorate and covered vast areas of date groves in the regions of al-Mihnawiyah, al-Shamiyah, al-Diwaniyah, and Ghamas. It will serve to expedite pollination operations and to reduce the labor expended as well as costs, since 12,600 date palms were pollinated. This campaign, which lasted an entire month, was accompanied by many training and extension symposia on the care and importance of the date palm.

Wheat and Barley Crops

Regarding the plan for the current winter growing season, the governor said: "The agricultural apparatuses have successfully implemented the steps required to provide what is needed this season for cultivating 169,112 dunums. Everybody in the agricultural councils, the Public Agency for Agriculture and Irrigation, and the cooperative farming associations worked together as a team to supply all the practical agricultural requirements for the wheat and barley crops and to carry out plowing operations, dredging by the concerned agencies of main and tributary rivers and outlets that are of use to the public, and the repair and maintenance of pumps. Moreover, pumps were provided to lands without a guaranteed water supply, and fertilizers, seeds, and machinery were provided. It was decided to implement a broad plan covering 140,365 dunums with various crops over the two seasons, to fertilize them, and combat agricultural pests.

It was also decided to implement extension and training operations which would help these requirements to be used equitably and to apply a plan of making explanations in the field, transmitting the results of practical agricultural research and experiments, placing them within reach of the extension agents and the farmers according to simple formulas, and directing them so that progressive results in increasing production per dunum and improving quality would be achieved."

The governor concluded his talk by saying: "We have high hopes that progressive results will be achieved in the amount of production and the development thereof; in the success of the new work formulae, the correct application of practical programs in agriculture, and the ideal use of water and machinery. We look for guidance in the directives of President Commander Saddam Husayn and in his excellency's pronouncements, 'There is no joy in a nation that eats more than it produces and reaps less than it sows,' to help us achieve a comfortable life and well-being in order to strengthen our national economy and to reinforce the victories of our intrepid armed forces in the battle of honor and glory, Saddam's glorious Qadisiyah battle."

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ARENS NAMES NEW ARAB AFFAIRS AIDE

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Elaine Ruth Fletcher and David Rudge]

[Text]

Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Arens yesterday named former deputy head of military intelligence, Amos Gilboa, to replace Dr. Yosef Ginat as his senior adviser on Israel's minority communities.

Ginat asserted that he was removed because his close identification with Arens's predecessor, Ezer Weizman, was politically unacceptable to Arens's Likud bloc.

But Arens's decision to name Gilboa, rather than reappoint the Likud's former Arab affairs advisor Binyamin Gur-Arye, also signalled Arens's desire to set his own course in his new post. The office was perceived as an inactive department under Likud governments prior to 1984.

Gilboa, 47, currently a senior Middle East political and defence analyst for *Ma'ariv*, has little experience with Israeli Arabs, said Arab leaders yesterday in reacting to the appointment.

"There's a great deal of suspicion now in the Arab sector about Arens and his new adviser, and many people fear a deterioration in relations," said veteran Acre town councillor Ramzi Khouri.

In his IDF post as head of research in the intelligence branch, Gilboa specialized in Syria and Iraq. Colleagues describe him as an astute thinker and political pragmatist.

They say he skilfully led the ill-fated Nakoura talks in 1984 that sought a negotiated settlement with the Lebanese government.

Gilboa said his prior experience with the Arab world would allow him to look at the problems of Israel's Arabs and other minorities "not in a narrow perspective, but in the broader sphere of the territories, the Palestinian problem and the Middle East.

"I accepted Arens's offer mainly because I see in this job a national mission to cope with one of the most serious problems in Israel," Gilboa added.

Ginat, meanwhile, denied a statement by Arens that he had resigned by "mutual agreement," saying he learned of his dismissal via a radio broadcast yesterday morning.

Ginat said a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office told him several weeks ago that his replacement was inevitable because he had served under Weizman.

Other sources said that Ginat's position as a member of the Labour Party's Central Committee and an activist for Labour in the Arab sector during the last elections made him politically unacceptable as Arens's senior aide.

Arens said Ginat's replacement was "connected of course to the political situation," but declined to elaborate.

Ginat, 50, said he would continue teaching at Haifa University and write books on Arab society.

Ginat said he hoped that Arens would soon respond to proposals made by his office on the problem of illegal building in the Arab sector and the resettlement of residents of Ikrit and Biram, expelled by the IDF in 1948 and never allowed to return.

Arens said he is still studying both proposals. He said his first major project would be to draw up a set of policy "guidelines" for Israel's minority communities to bring before the cabinet for approval.

He said the government has never operated according to guidelines in this area.

"Policies concerning minority citizens must not be the policy of one man, even if he is minister, or of one party," said Arens. "I am trying to obtain a consensus."

Arens said Israel had made a great deal of progress under difficult circumstances in advancing its minorities. "But we have a long way to go to provide (them) with feelings of equality, identification, loyalty and partnership."

/12379
CSO: 4400/92

ANTI-TERROR ACCORD SIGNED WITH ITALY

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Dec 86 p 2

[Article by Yoram Gazit]

[Text] TEL AVIV. – Israel and Italy yesterday signed an agreement to cooperate in the war against terrorism and crime generally.

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev and Italian Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro signed the accord at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also attended the ceremony.

Bar-Lev and Luigi agreed on the establishment of a joint committee which will meet at least once a year to discuss ways of fighting terror, drug smuggling and organized crime. The two ministers will head the committee.

Under the agreement Israel and Italy will exchange information on terror organizations and on ways of improving security measures at airports, railway stations and other public places.

Scalfaro said he had refused to attend a signing ceremony at National Police Headquarters in East Jerusalem because of his country's foreign policy.

He told reporters that Italy had decided to sign a separate anti-terror agreement with Israel because the efforts of the EEC countries to combat terror were ineffective. He emphasized that Italy neither recognizes nor has political relations with any terror organizations including the PLO.

Bar-Lev and Scalfaro agreed that under the accord their countries would combat terror, whatever its motives. Italy, Scalfaro said, does not differentiate between acts of terror committed in the name of national liberation and those committed for other ends.

The anti-crime clauses of the accord deal with, among other matters, efforts to combat the laundering of black money. The agreement also calls for the exchange of police experts and information.

Earlier yesterday Prime Minister Shamir met in his office with Salfaro. The Italian minister told Shamir that he wished other EEC countries would sign anti-terror accords like the one he had signed with Israel. Shamir said he hoped that the agreement would encourage other EEC countries to cooperate in the war against terror.

In the morning, Scalfaro visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

/12379
CSO: 4400/92

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN TERRITORIES DISCUSSED

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 11-17 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (Star) — When UNRWA's West Bank field office recently advertised that it might soon have vacancies for guards, kitchen workers, sanitation labourers, doorkeepers, cleaners and school attendants, the response was overwhelming. More than 1,000 applications flooded in. The works would pay 94 Jordanian dinars (US $270) a month, and require only a ninth-grade education, but there were applications from high school and university graduates.

The Agency had to issue a second notice advising that no more than 20 vacancies were realistically expected to occur and that applicants' "chances of employment must be considered remote."

This clamour for jobs is seen as an indication of the increasingly hard economic times faced by people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where UNRWA provides education, heatlh and relief services for almost 800,000 Palestine refugees. Conditions of virtual full employment prevailed in the two Israeli-held territories until recently.

Some 90,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, including refugees, found regular work in Israel. Nearly half the Arab labourers employed in Israel traditionally worked in construction, but this has been hit by the economic recession; official Israeli statistics report a 17 per cent falloff in new construction from 1984 to 1985.

An April 1986 report by the Bank of Israel said that an annual 2.9 per cent growth rate in the population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, combined with the effects of recession, had produced the first significant signs of unemployment in the occupied territories. It gave figures of 5.3 per cent unemployed (13,300 persons) in the two territories combined in the first nine months of 1985, compared with 3.7 per cent in 1984.

This may not seem high by European standards, but most Palestinians employed in Israel do not register with government labour exchanges, preferring to seek daily casual employment. Arab workers say that if they registered for 'official' work, 20 per cent of their wages would be deducted for national insurance, although, according to the 1986 report of Israeli reseracher Meron Benvenisti's "West Bank Data Base Project," they do not receive the same fringe benefits or social-security coverage as Israelis.

The 50,000 Palestinians in the 'unofficial' labour pool work mostly for daily wages in unskilled jobs, as municipal labourers in Israeli towns or as cleaners, gardeners, waiters or dishwashers. Competition for jobs has heightened as the Israeli recession has worsened. Refugees and other Palestinians report that, whereas they could once find work six days a week, now they are lucky to do so three or four days a week.

Because Palestinians from the occupied territories are not permitted to sleep overnight in Israel, they must leave home daily in search of work. They have to pay the cost of transport to and from prospective jobs or informal labour

markets, whether they find work or not. In Gaza, tens of thousands of men gather before dawn to take buses, taxis, vans, pickups and trucks into Israel, where they will wait on street-corners hoping to be hired for the day by Israeli contractors. Similar scenes occur daily in the major West Bank towns — Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin — as workers head for the nearest Israeli cities in search of work. In Jerusalem, workers assemble near the Damascus Gate, waiting for contractors to select them for a days' labour.

The average wage these daily-paid workers can expect is between $5 and $10 a day. And official Israeli reports substantiate claims by Palestinian workers that these wages are deteriorating. According to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, average daily wages declined between 1984 and 1985 by 5.3 per cent for workers from the West Bank and 13 per cent of workers from the Gaza Strip.

Growing unemployment, underemployment and wage erosion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have direct implications for UNRWA. Graduates from the Agency's four training centres in the occupied territories often cannot find jobs locally in their areas of specialization. According to the Jerusalem-based Arab University Alumni Club, some 8,100 Palestinian university and community-college graduates — 5,400 from the West Bank and 2,700 from Gaza — were among the unemployed in 1985.

The Engineers' Association in the West Bank said that nearly a third of its members — some 200 engineers — were unemployed in 1985.

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CSO: 4400/92

POOR CONDITIONS IN ARAB SCHOOLS REPORTED

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 18 Dec 86 p 11

[Article by Bernard Jospehs]

[Text]

AS THE children of Mikhman village in Galilee file into class today, they will pass a big sign in red letters fixed to the entrance of their school. It reads: "Dangerous building. Entry to outsiders forbidden."

The youngsters of this Bedouin village — where the menfolk all serve in the IDF — have passed that warning sign every school day for four months. And many of them will go on doing so for years to come.

The fragility of the building is not the only problem facing them. In the Arab educational sector, which is generally deprived, they are among the worst off.

The most basic amenities, taken for granted in even the poorest schools, are but a dream to the pupils and teachers of Mikhman.

Their school has no water supply, no toilets, no telephone and an erratic electricity supply. They will have toilets in a few months, when three new classrooms being built at the site are completed. But without water these will be useless, pointed out principal Hugarat Majad.

The new classrooms are at least a sign that someone is finally taking note of the plight, said Majad. But they are far from adequate. The school has 320 children from age five to 13 in 11 classes.

Five grades study in the stark, damp concrete structure that was built by the villagers themselves in 1949. They sit three to a desk in dark rooms that let in rain in winter and dust in summer.

There are no pictures on the walls, bars bulbs hang overhead in their sockets, and the teachers have few materials other than chalk.

The rest of the children study outside the school in rooms rented from the villagers. Some study in cellars with no windows which are often flooded when it rains.

Majad, a tall, intense man who is a graduate of the school, said: "How can children be expected to learn in such conditions? How can teachers teach like this?"

The village has had big problems from the start. It still has no regular water supply. The roads are unpaved and it was only recently recognized as a settlement, he complained.

But the school concerns him most. When the people here built it themselves," said Majad. "They asked the government for help, but no one was interested.

"Two or three years ago, after we brought our problems up before the Ministry of Education, it finally decided to make improvements.

"But then, just before school was due to start this September, the officials declared it was impossible to improve the building and designated it as dangerous."

Majad and his staff of 13 teachers staged a protest strike. There were visits by top ministry

officials who declared themselves "shocked" at what they saw.

Now a plan to build 12 new classrooms has been approved. But it will take at least two years to complete, and until then, the children will go on being educated in a condemned building.

The case of Mikhman is an extreme one, admits Histadrut Teachers Union leader Yitzhak Welber, whose organization is pressing the government to take swift action to improve Arab schools.

But it is not unique, and conditions in the sector are a cause for deep concern, he said.

Arab schools are short of nearly 1,000 classrooms and overcrowding is common, with up to 45 children in a class. Many institutions are forced to rent private rooms to house pupils.

Hundreds of children study in bomb shelters, storage rooms, community clubs and other unsuitable premises, asserts the union.

A typical example is the bustling town of Tamra just a few kilometres from Mikhman. There the schools are well-kept, clean and decently built. But they are totally inadequate for the number of children.

Mahmud Kanan, deputy head of the local council, said the town desperately needs 23 more classrooms, "which is the equivalent of an entire school."

One bulging junior high school has been given the use of two windowless, bare-walled storage rooms, each about half the size of an average classroom. They are used by two overflow classes of 40 children.

"Space isn't the only problem, said Kanan. "We are also desperately short of basic furniture like chairs and desks. We don't have the funds to buy them ourselves and the budget cuts mean we don't get any thing from the ministry. In addition we have no school playgrounds."

Material shortages are the most obvious sign of the crisis, but they are just part of a depressing picture, said Weber. The curriculum in some subjects has not been changed for almost 40 years he said. Few schools are equipped with computers. And principals are faced with an administrative nightmare because the programme for decentralizing control of the Arab sector has not been completed.

"Before decentralization, Arab school heads had to turn to the ministry in Jerusalem for everything. That was bad enough. But what they have now is even worse. Some things are dealt with locally. Some are still in the hands of Jerusalem. The result is confusion and an inability to deal swiftly with urgent problems," said Welber.

What is at stake, said another union official, is much more than a few million dollars. "By neglecting Arab schools we are alienating and embittering a new generation. We could be lighting the fuse of a time bomb."

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MORE BELT-TIGHTENING ENVISIONED FOR 1987

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Finance Supplement) in Hebrew 28 Oct 86 pp 1, 8

[Article by Dov Genhovski: "The Ministry of Finance Is Still Talking About Belt Tightening"]

[Text] At the Ministry of Finance, the lights are burning once again at night. The heads of the budget committee are working overtime in an attempt to establish policy lines for the new budget which will be Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's first in the context of the national unity government. The work is being done under pressure, because Moshe Nisim, Minister of Finance, intends to bring his budget proposal before the Knesset in short order, by January 1987, to allow all the ministers ample time to come to terms with the expected budget cuts and approve it without "last minute" pressure.

The pressure is not due to timing alone. It is also the result of the fact that next year's budget will be approximately $1.5 billion short, given a budget of approximately $22 billion. This is not a sum to scoff at. What's more, it is already clear that as a result of pressures from ministers and ministries, there will be a breach in the budget beyond the norm, so the problem will be even more serious.

Lost Cuts

The only solution to the 1987 budget problem is, in the opinion of the finance people, more belt-tightening, budget cuts, and cutbacks in government services, new restrictions on the public, and perhaps even the elimination of exemptions and "rights" that in the past were freely granted to various sectors. Initial hints to this effect have already been leaked to the media over the last few days.

How did it happen that once again a sum of $1.5 billion is missing from the budget, and once again there is the need for drastic cutbacks and new taxes?

--Cutbacks were decided upon but never implemented during the current fiscal year, to the tune of $400 million. Actually, considerably more cuts were decided upon which were never implemented, but this is the "fixed" amount. The rest have apparently been defined as "lost" cuts.

--The Knesset's failure to enact "one-time taxes," automobile levies, a tax on allowances for children, reductions of the employers tax, and reduced duty as required by agreements with the Common Market and the United States: $500-$600 million.

--Increased expenditures to prevent inflationary pressures, mostly by giving employees wage and cost of living increases and the like, in keeping with current accepted methods, i.e., reductions in social security rates and various and sundry other taxes: approximately $500,000, perhaps a little more.

A Halfway Solution

In coming months, there will be a great deal of talk, a very great deal, about budget cuts and about ways to bring in money from the public. To what degree will this talk only be a way of covering up reality--that is another question altogether. In general, the solutions are almost half and half. The people will be "asked" to contribute approximately $700-$800 million to the cause, the various government ministries a little less--let us assume $600-$700 million.

To what degree, therefore, will the Ministry of Finance succeed at convincing the ministers to cut their budgets? It is difficult to answer that question at this stage, although it is already clear that tough struggles are expected with those ministries scheduled for cutbacks, such as the ministries of education, defense, and health.

The Ministry of Defense, for example, has taken a position against the cutbacks, based on agreements that past cutbacks were defined as "one time." The ministry says that when the new round of cuts begins, it should be based not on current budget levels, but on the levels that existed prior to those initial cutbacks. There are several clauses relating to past cutbacks which the Ministry of Defense is even demanding to be repealed. Given this state of affairs, any demand for new cutbacks will be met with the fiercest opposition.

The situation in the Ministry of Health is similar. Whatever the outcome is with the nurses, it will cost money, apparently a lot of money. The ministry will have to pay increases to the nurses in hospitals, and compensate the clinics and the public hospitals for these increases and raises. The Ministry of Finance will pressure the Ministry of Health to "absorb" this additional expense in its existing budget. There is no chance that that will happen. Another possibility, that the clinics and public institutions will raise the uniform tax and the rates in order to pay thenurses, will run aground, given anticipated objections from the Histadrut, and the impact this will have on economic indicators. The new minister of health, Shoshana Arbeli-Almozelini, will be much more dogmatic in this area than her predecessor, and that already says a lot. Additionally, this is only considering nurses in hospitals. Once this issues are resolved, the problems will start with other nurses, in clinics, public health services, and the like. And as if that were not enough--it is obvious to anyone who knows how to read the handwriting on the wall that the doctors are in a tense holding pattern, waiting for the next event.

Election Eve Budget

To this we must add the new political reality. Following the rotation, a situation has been created wherein the ministries with the largest expenditures--defense, education and health--are in the hands of the Alignment, while there is no longer a prime minister from that party who can influence his colleagues, or even be interested in so doing, to restrain their budgetary demands. And as if this was not enough--there are many in the two largest blocs "who see the light" and are treating the next budget, if not like an election budget, at least like an "election eve" budget, with all its implications.

One need only to have listened to the speech given by the secretary general of the Labor Party, Knesset Member Uzi Bar'am, in a discussion on giving a vote of confidence to the new government, to feel this.

The change in the political map will, of course, also influence the first part of the plan, levies from the public. The rumors emanating from the walls of the Ministry of Finance point to two main examples: The first is the old suggestion to impose a tax on allowances for the elderly. The second is the elimination of all kinds of benefits and income tax exemptions, i.e., the implementation of a "half return" of the direct tax and the elimination of some exemptions without giving new tax breaks in return.

Past experience has taught that any attempt to change the allowance for the elderly is a highly charged political explosive. Even more dangerous would be to eliminate exemptions, because each "exemption" of this kind is upheld, like a sacred cow, by a strong interest group. The strength of these groups is evidenced by the fact that they got the exemption in the first place. Additionally, recent efforts show that even before the rotation, the government treated the allocation of additional exemptions with a generous hand, not the opposite.

What is left? Gathering funds from the public usually means loans. It is easy to say that next year the government will be able to repay an internal debt of close to 8 billion shekels, but it is easier said than done. There are threats, as might be expected, of banks calling loans. But it is worth noting that at issue is a quarter of the overall sum that will be required for repayment, and there are those who say that this is precisely the relatively easy part of the deal. In any event, a full repayment, in and of itself, will be a great achievement. It would be difficult to count on repayment plus, that is to say, an actual decrease in the internal debt. This is true even without taking into account the current size of the debt and the trend to reduce it.

Where Did the Billions Go?

Among the many excuses that have been heard concerning the immense pressures under which the budget will be placed, is also the issue of American aid. It was special emergency aid of $15 billion over the last 2 years, and that is not all. This excuse has been heard recently and the following notice from

the Ministry of Finance said that "there will be no recourse but to take steps toward restraining the state budget given the anticipated difficulties of the 1987 budget, following the loss of the one time aid that Israel was granted over the past 2 years."

At issue is only an "excuse," because the emergency aid was not earmarked for budgetary expenditures. It was, rather, intended to reduce the external debt burden and to improve the foreign currency balance. The fact that such things are being said invites many pointed questions. What, in effect, did we do with the billions of dollars that are at issue, over the course of the last 2 years? The subject is not just the emergency aid, but also the "profit" from the fall of oil and commodity prices, and the favorable trade conditions following the fall of the dollar. Should it become clear, when the accounts are tallied, that we "ate and drank" these sums, or most of them (which is the meaning of the claim that these sums will be missing in the next budget) then perhaps it is not just an "excuse" but a terrible failure, and therefore, we will all still need to make up for our sins in due course.

What honest answers does the Ministry of Finance have in this situation? The Bank of Israel is telling the Ministry of Finance to cut the budget. In the new political reality, this is almost an impossible mission. The new prime minister, in his "inaugural" address, spoke about "Zionist economies." "Zionist economies," for anyone who does not know it, means that first you spend the money and later you worry about covering it, if at all. In such a situation, aside from symbolic, insignificant cutbacks, and aside from a meaningless increase here and there in the tax burden, there is no reason to expect miracles and wonders that will extricate the Ministry of Finance from this dilemma.

Tightening the Budget

The only answer that the Ministry of Finance already has, and it is a very partial one, is to tighten the budget. The ministry says, for anyone who wants to listen, that inflation next year will be 12 percent. We wish! But according to internal Ministry of Finance figures it will actually be more. How much more? From 20 to 25 percent. However, the budget will be built on a yearly inflation figure of 12 percent.

The result will, automatically, be a real tightening of the budget to cover the difference between this rate and the real inflation rate. This will be made possible principally because following the government's success in halting inflation thus far, the next budget will be a nominal one, i.e., in floating shekels, not in dollars or fixed shekels. In any event, any downward trend in the calculation of the inflation rate will reduce in real terms the budget expenditure.

If it works, it will reduce the problem by a few hundred million dollars. In "the best" case, which is actually "the worst" case from the point of view of next year's inflation, we will be talking about approximately $400-$500 million. What about all the rest? There are no answers yet, and it is doubtful whether there will be any real answers even in January 1987, the epriod in which Minister of Finance Nisim wants to put his first budget on the Knesset table.

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NEW OIL EXPLORATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Dec 86 p 1

[Article by Bernard Josephs]

[Text]

An off-shore oil exploration project involving American and Israeli companies is about to get underway in the coastal waters south of Ashdod, Energy Ministry officials confirmed yesterday.

This follows the award of a concession to search for oil in a 4,050 square kilometre area to the U.S.-based Isramco Corporation, together with four Israeli firms: Jerusalem Oil and Gas, Delek Oil Exploration, Delek Oil Marketing and East Mediterranean Oil and Gas.

The preliminary surveys and drilling will be carried out along the coast from Ashdod all the way to the international border with Egypt.

Hopes that deposits of crude oil may be found off-shore have been boosted by the discovery of substantial oil reserves in adjacent waters off the Sinai coast at El Arish.

The wells there, sunk by the French Total company, are considered the most prolific in the Mediterranean and were last year producing up to 12,000 barrels a day.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said recently that he was confident more reserves would be found in the region. "If the Egyptians found oil off El Arish, there is no reason why it can't be found opposite Israel's coastline which, geologically, is a continuation of the Sinai coast," he asserted.

Energy Ministry sources have pointed out, however, that oil prospecting in that area will be difficult due to the depth of the water.

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BRIEFS

KNESSET STRENGTHENS ARMS EXPORT REGULATIONS--The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee approved yesterday the Defense Ministry's recommendation for tightening regulations allowing Israeli citizens to deal in arms and military information. The regulations follow in the wake of the illegal arms sales incidents in the United States, in which Israelis with permission to deal in arms, were involved. The most glaring incident was that of Brigadier General (Reserves) Avraham Bar'am, who is accused in the United States of selling military equipment worth millions of dollars to Iran. Bar'am had permission from the Defense Ministry to deal in arms. According to the new regulations, an Israeli who wants to deal in defense exports will need two releases from the Ministry of Defense: permission to negotiate with a foreign party, and later, permission to execute the sale. At both stages, releases will be given for specific deals only after the petitioner has indicated to which country he wants to export the arms, the types of equipment, and the quantities. "This marks the end of open permission slips," announced the minister of defense to members of the Foreign and Defense Committee. Until now, Israelis received blanket releases to deal in the export of military weapons and information. Today, there are approximately 800 people or firms in Israel with such blanket permission agreements. "These blanket releases to former military men allowing them to deal in defense exports achieved results diametrically opposed to that which had been intended," admitted Rabin. "Instead of serving as a method of control, in many cases, the general releases were exploited for the worst." All the committee members greeted the minister of defense's recommendations with enthusiasm and approved them. However, a few members said that there are additional problems to be dealt with. Eliahu Ben-Elishar (Likud) and Yosi Sharid (RATZ) reacted to statements made this week by Minister Ari'el Sharon saying that at the beginning of the 1980s, Israel executed arms deals with the Khomeyni regime in Iran. The two demanded some kind of parliamentary controls over arms deals between Israel and other countries. Knesset Member Rabbi Menahem HaKohen (Alignment) asked to increase the "cooling" period for people who served in the IDF and moved into the sale of arms, military equipment and information acquired during their service. In response, the minister of defense said that the cooling period for military people is the same as that for civil servants leaving their jobs and joining the private sector. [Text] [YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Oct 86 p 2] 9811/8918

JORDANIAN OFFICIAL'S SECRET VISIT TO GAZA--A senior Jordanian official recently paid a secret visit to the Gaza Strip. In Gaza yesterday it was disclosed that the man arrived in town approximately 3 weeks ago for what was defined as a private visit. A well known public figure in Gaza reported yesterday that he met the Jordanian official approximately 2 weeks ago at one of the hospitals in town. "I asked him what he was doing and he told me that he was on a private visit in Gaza. After I pushed a little, he admitted that he had come to Gaza to determine how Jordan could help. He told me that he had come to check on conditions in Gaza and see in which areas the Jordanian economic plan could be integrated for Gaza. When I asked him if he was referring to aid for the Palestinian people within a Jordanian framework or some other, he answered: 'We are all brothers. There is no difference.' He also asked me to keep his visit to the Strip a secret, saying that it was better if people did not know about it." According to this source, the man left the Strip last Sunday and promised to return to Gaza in a month to continue his activities. During the course of his visit, the Jordanian met with people from Gaza's civil administration. A senior administrative official defined the visit as a visit for learning the problems, but said that he had not gained much benefit from it. [Text] [Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Oct 86 p 10] 9811/8918

CSO: 4423/9

AL-DUSTUR REGRETS COUNCIL'S 'WEAK' RESOLUTIONS

JN111038 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Dec 86 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Dangerous Circumstances and Weak Resolution"]

[Text] Contrary to what Jordan and all the sincere Arabs hoped for, the preliminary results of the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers were weaker than what many expected of this meeting--which was held amid circumstances that merely necessitated adopting a unanimous position to end the Palestinian bloodshed, at the hands Amal, in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

The separate and secondary considerations which have controlled the march of joint Arab action for many years were reaffirmed in this ministerial meeting--a meeting in which Jordan's participation was important due to its clear call for lifting the siege from the camps.

Undoubtedly, the resolutions of the ministerial council, which was not attended by most of the Arab foreign ministers, provide further evidence of the weakness of current Arab methods, and the impotency of the joint Arab action, and this is absolutely contrary to the spirit of the age.

The failure of the Arab foreign ministers to come out with something more than a statement calling on the warring sides to end the fighting and lift the siege on the camps merely indicates that the institutions of Arab collective action are no longer capable of shouldering a role commensurate with the gravity of the challenges.

While we regret the weakness of the resolutions issued by Arab Foreign Ministers' Council and the differences that prevailed during these meetings--which prevented the Arab representatives from undertaking a single practical step that could rescue a wounded person or provide security to a besieged child--we cannot give up hope of seeing the Arab Foreign Ministers' Council adopt unanimous resolutions when it convenes on Monday even if this is out of humanitarian, not to mention pan-Arab consideration.

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AMMAN, CAIRO REJECT SHAMIR'S CALL FOR TALKS

JN120945 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Dec 86 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Futile Game"]

[Text] Within the context of a game to waste time and opportunities and to deliberately hinder the peace process in the area, Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday renewed an invitation to Jordan and Egypt to enter into negotiations on the basis of the Camp David accords, contending that these should push forward the peace process. This invitation means that Israel is determined to prevent the convening of the proposed international conference to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem, and that Israel wants to reopen the Camp David book, which Egypt has closed and which has never been accepted by Jordan. Shamir's futile game also seeks to discredit Jordan and Egypt in the Arab arena and to pollute the Arab atmosphere. Amman and Cairo will certainly not allow this game to continue. Jordan will not depart from its position calling for an international conference nor will it alter its avowed position not to be a substitute for the PLO or a proxy for the Palestinian people in the peace process. As for Egypt, President Mubarak has said more than once it adheres to the international conference. It just does not make sense for Egypt to accept the alternative of the Camp David umbrella, which has worn out and has never been accepted by Jordan or the Arabs.

Given this obvious fact, Senator Edward Kennedy should know better than to be deceived by this suspect invitation which Shamir asked him to pass on to Amman and Cairo. He should know better than to get involved in the game of wasting time and opportunities, as the Israeli prime minister would like him to. The peace process can get started only under the umbrella of an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute, including the PLO. No form of bilateral and separate negotiations may be a substitute for that approach. For all their atrocities and ugliness, the occupation authorities' terrorist practices beyond the (Jordan) River will not make Jordan budge from its position. Shamir's game will not be able to deceive the international community or convince anyone of his proposed substitute for the international conference.

U.S. politicians visiting the area can play a constructive role in unblocking the peace process by understanding and respecting the international will for

an international conference and by making sincere efforts to convince the U.S. administration to support the idea and thus regain its credibility. Their trips to the area would then become meaningful and respectable, rising above being an exercise to peddle Israeli games designed to obstruct the peace process.

The bottom line is that Shamir's call for Jordanian-Egyptian-Israeli negotiations is rejected by Amman and Cairo, even if it is passed on by Reagan himself.

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AL-RA'Y ON KING HUSAYN VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA

JN211032 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Dec 86 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Jordanian-Saudi Talks"]

[Text] Within the Jordanian move led by King Husayn in the Arab arena to rally Arab resources into unified Arab action comes the visit of his majesty and the accompanying delegation to fraternal Saudi Arabia and the talks with his brother King Fahd, custodian of the two holy harams, and top Saudi officials which began in al-Dammam yesterday.

Naturally the talks between the two Arab monarchs will deal with the developments and challenges facing the nation, as well as the steps that must be taken so that the Arabs can regain the ability for genuine joint action, including the convocation of an Arab summit, clearing the Arab atmosphere, and closing Arab ranks.

Needless to say, the current Arab situation, with its meaningless differences, was and still is the enemies' trump card and the foundation on which they build their present and future plans. This means that building a new Arab reality which overcomes all these differences and bases itself both morally and practically on the pan-Arab responsibility, has become an urgent necessity that cannot be postponed, especially since the aggressive anti-Arab practices are escalating. Furthermore, the time factor has become a dangerous weapon in the hands of aggressors.

Therefore, the Arabs have no alternative but regain their ability to control present and future events in their region that if they are serious in trying to regain their rights and secure the future of their generations. Otherwise, challenges will not cease and usurped rights will not be secured.

The Arabs have more than once called and are still calling for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This call, however, has so far not received a serious response simply because the aggressors, and those encouraging them and colluding with them, doubt the Arabs' ability to exercise all the options which enable them to achieve the peace they hope for. Hence, the Arab inability has become an obstacle to peace. This is a fact that must be stated. What is odd is that this inability turns into bravery among the Arabs themselves. They are exercising all options in the arena of differences

ard show ability for shedding Arab blood with the Arab land. They also show ability to sustain bloody conflagaration among themselves for years and years. Had they employed these options and resources in confronting the aggression to which they are all exposed, things would have been different. They could have put an end to the arrogance of the aggressors and those colluding with them. and established genuine peace in the region.

The Arabs have all the abilities and resources which enable them to regain their rights without beginning. They only have to rally and organize these abilities and resources into a unified action, and to exercise all feasible options which return just and comprehensive peace to the region. We hope that the Arab leaderships will exert efforts in this regard because in all cases they hold the pan-Arab responsibility.

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JORDANIAN OFFICIAL VISITS PRO-PLO INSTITUTIONS

TA191117 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Dec 86 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text]--The senior Jordanian official, Sa'd 'Ala Nuri, yesterday concluded a week of visits to various councils and institutions in the territories and returned to Amman. Prior to his departure he visited Nabulus where he called on officials at the municipality, the Education Bureau, and the Red Crescent. He discussed with them the Jordanian 5-year plan, whose implementation he is responsible for at the Jordanian Ministry for Occupied Territories Affairs.

A day earlier he visited Hebron where he conferred with members of the Technical College a pro-PLO institution, among others. Our correspondent points out that Jordan may be trying to appease the PLO by showing it that the 5-year plan will not come at its expense, and that pro-PLO institutions will also be able to benefit from the financial aid.

The 5-year plan was drawn up in Jordan before the split with the PLO, and the PLO had at the time given its approval for the plan.

The Jordanian official also met in Hebron with municipal council members as well as with the committee in charge of building a modern hospital in the city.

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SAWT AL-SHA'B REPORTS NABULUS MAYOR INTERVIEW

JN111406 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Dec 86 pp 1, 17

[Text] Amman, [SAWT AL-SHA'B]--Nabulus Mayor Hafiz Tuqan has stressed that what is taking place in the occupied territories is part of a planned Israeli scheme to expel the largest possible number of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

In an interview published by the London-based newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Tuqan said: We, as well as Israel, realize that the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland are the crux of the issue. That is why Israel's main objective is to get us out of our land. But our people realize this and such incidents make them more united in the face of occupation.

Tuqan asserted that Arab disintegration has seriously affected the people in the occupied territories--it reflects directly on us. Wherever there is a glimmer of hope regarding the possibility of clearing the Arab atmosphere, it boosts the morale of our people.

Tuqan praised the Palestinians who have remained in occupied Palestine since 1948. He said: They are continuing their struggle against the occupation authorities. They remind us of the early Muslims. The long years of occupation did not make them forget their central cause.

Answering a question, the Nabulus mayor said: It is our duty, in our capacity as mayors of cities in the occupied territories, to raise morale and bring hope to our kinfolk through executing the vital and basic projects that serve them. He said: We cannot eliminate the occupation but we can alleviate the suffering of our people in the occupied territories whom the world recognizes as the crux of the question.

Tuqan lauded Jordan's position toward the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said: Once Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i learned about our requests, he immediately telephoned the competent departments and asked them to quickly undertake the necessary measures to execute the vital projects and basic needs of Nabulus municipal council and its districts. He said: Among the most outstanding projects we give priority to is the water network project since the city loses half the water it receives as a result of the damage to the old network. This project costs 3 million dinars. Other projects are the

electricity development program and the 'Abd al-Nasir gardens in the heart of the city. These gardens cover an area of 100 dunums and costs 1.25 million dinars. Other projects are the garbage disposal program costing half a million dinars; the sewage treatment project due to the pollution in Nabulus and the neighboring villages located to the west of the city; purchasing land for building schools; purchasing vehicles for the municipality; and purchasing land to build the Rafiday Hospital.

He went on to say that among the other important projects is establishing tourist facilities so as to divert the attention of the youths away from the Israeli facilities which might corrupt them. He said: We were in need of these projects before Jordan prepared and implemented the occupied territories' development plan. We had informed the Jordanian government about the need to execute these projects about 7 months ago.

On the role played by the Arab mayors in the service of the citizens, Hafiz Tuqan said: The most outstanding example of this is our people's enthusiasm to deal with the municipality. This municipality, for example, granted in 1 day, 120 building permits. This did not happen during a whole year of military rule. He said: Since I assumed my mayoral duties one-third of the old and new city streets have been repaired. I also secured work opportunitites for many youths in an effort to reduce unemployment.

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ALIA'S GHANDUR ON WEST BANK OFFICES, SHARE SALES

JN161117 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Dec 86 pp 1, 4

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporters]

[Excerpts] Amman--In a stepped-up effort to overcome obstacles posed to progress and development by the depressed Middle Eastern economy and political environment, Jordan's national air carrier announced on Monday it was launching new strategies to market the kingdom's East and West Banks and tapping new international markets.

The airline also announced it was changing its name from Alia to Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the change was complemented with the introduction of new colours and designs of RJ aircraft's exterior and interior, employee uniforms, stationery, signs, ticket offices, lounges and public premises in Jordan and abroad, Ali Ghandour, chairman of the RJ Board of Directors, told a press conference.

The changes are designed to give the airline a new image and identity to enable the carrier to get a "wider and more identifiable corporate image," Mr Ghandour told the press conference held at the RJ Gateway Hotel to commemorate the airline's 23rd anniversary.

Mr Ghandour expressed hope that the national carrier would be able to reopen its offices in the West Bank so that it could increase tourism to the area. He gave no further details but said airline would encourage tour packages to "Jordan and the Holy Land--both banks of Jordan"--to help overcome a drop in passengers caused by international and regional recession and political turmoil in the area.

He said that tentative net profit for the year 1986 were JD 1.9 million, up from JD 1.8 million in 1985, on a gross income of $336 million, down from almost $400 million last year.

Replying to a question, Mr Ghandur said he expected the carrier's profits to rise slightly in 1987 to reach "a conservative estimate" of JD 1.2 million on a gross income of $393 million.

The RJ chairman, who helped found the airline in 1963, revealed that the carrier, currently 100 percent owned by the government, planned to sell 10 percent of its shares to its employees and another 30 percent of its stock to Jordan's private and public sectors.

A preliminary study to transform the company's status was carried out by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The USAID study, Mr Ghandur said, predicts that the airline could offer a dividend of 6.5 percent every year per share.

Mr Ghandur said the government had approved of the preliminary scheme for the RJ's privatisation. He said he expected that the 10 percent of shares reserved for RJ staff and the 30 percent for the public and private sectors to be floated sometime in 1987.

As far as international floating of RJ shares is concerned, Mr Ghandur said, this issue will take another legal study.

/9599
CSO: 4400/80

PROBLEMS OF RECESSION DISCUSSED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Nov 86 p 36

[Article: "Recession of the 80's Reflected in Jordan's Situation"]

[Text] Jordan, like most Arab countries, experienced a period of relative prosperity during the 1970's, but the recession of the 1980's is reflected in its economic situation. Economic problems have begun to rise to the surface, and sources of foreign currency have begun to dry up because of the continuation of the Gulf war, in addition to the decrease in the Arab aid that had been decided upon at the Baghdad Conference, either for political reasons or because of low liquidity in some of the Arab states.

In spite of that, Jordanian officials are still hoping that the situation can be dealt with, and that the Jordanian economy will be "made healthy", as they say.

Predictions for 1986 point to the possibility of improvement in the current account in the balance of payments, since Jordan will continue to be able to borrow from world markets. That is because Jordan's foreign debts are considered to be relatively limited, so Jordan still enjoys a good reputation.

By the end of 1985, Jordan's foreign debts had reached $2.3 billion, and the service of the debt does not exceed 9 percent of the gross national product.

The possibility of checking the payments of the debt service in the upcoming years remains a reasonable expectation. It is expected that they will reach a maximum in 1988, when they will be about $344 million. Economic reports have indicated that Jordan is on the list of countries that are able to meet their obligations. In this respect, among the Arab states, is is listed directly following the Gulf Cooperation Council and Iraq, and among the countries of the world it is ranked 50th.

This confidence, as well as the low level of foreign debts, has strengthened the new administration in the areas of the economy, fiscal policy, and the tax system, and it is expected that many world banks will continue to consider investment in Jordan to be a low risk.

The problems from which the Jordanian economy suffers are attributable to the fact that a minor portion of the capital pouring into the country was

invested in productive sectors, while the greater portion was invested in real estate and the building of huge villas. Besides that, Jordan saw a great increase in consumption, which caused the value of imports to triple between 1979 and 1982, so the greatest area of growth was in luxury consumer goods instead of in productive commodities. And while the two basic sectors in Jordan--tourism and services--have about an 18 percent share of the total domestic product, industry has 15 percent, banking 12 percent, and agriculture 8 percent.

However, the two basic primary products, phosphate and potash, have been negatively affected by the sharp drop that has befallen prices of primary goods, while the campaigns of drilling for oil have resulted in the discovery of only limited quantities of oil (slightly more than 4,000 barrels a day), while Jordan imports about 60,000 barrels a day.

Jordan ranks third among phosphate-exporting states after the United States and Morocco. However, its ability to export increased greatly following the opening of the Wadi al-Abyad mine.

Steps were recently taken to limit increases in imports and to encourage exports. Export procedures were eased, and exported goods were exempted from the income tax. The importation of luxury goods that compete with Jordanian goods was banned, and high duties were levied on essential and semi-ready goods that are available locally. The government also began to enforce the quality and price level of goods to ensure that Jordanian products will be able to compete in foreign markets.

It seems that there is a limit on Jordan's ability to lower imports. The greater part of Jordanian light industry depends on the importation of primary materials. Besides that, Jordan needs to import half of its food requirements, in view of the scarcity of water sources and the subsequent scarcity of arable land, which represents 610,000 hectares out of an original area of 9.6 million hectares.

As for the balance of trade, Jordan has recorded a deficit in its current account during the 1980's. After reaching its highest level at $391 million in 1983, the deficit in the current account decreased to $264 million in 1984, then rose to $315 in 1985. It seems that the balance of trade has shown an improvement, since the deficit decreased by about 3 percent between 1983 and 1985.

12547/9871
CSO: 4404/93

ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES SUMMARIZED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 15 Nov 86 p 37

[Article: "Jordan Is Gaining Control Over Its Economic Crisis"]

[Text] Jordan is facing various difficulties, but it is successfully overcoming them. They arise basically from the drop in its foreign currency revenues, whether they be remittances from Jordanians working abroad, especially in the Gulf states, or from its exports of phosphate and potash. This drop in foreign revenues has resulted chiefly from the drop in the level of economic activity in the Gulf states as well as from the world-wide recession.

That does not mean that the challenges have passed, for they still exist in screaming colors. Rather it means that the crisis has come to be under control and that it is being steered in the right direction.

There are certain indications that prove that, even though they are in their infancy:

-- There has been a tangible drop in Jordan's imports of crude oil with respect to value (because of the drop in oil prices), and perhaps with respect to quantity. It should be mentioned that Jordan's oil imports were 60,000 barrels a day, with an annual value of about $600 million. It is believed that Jordan will pay half that amount in 1986, or slightly more, which will help to balance the balance of payments.

-- There has been a drop in imports from what they had been at the peak of the upswing, by virtue of the customs arrangements which have imposed large duties on imports that Jordanian society does not need or which it produces.

-- It has been possible to carry out comprehensive reforms in the public and private sectors, so that losses have been reduced or stopped in some companies.

-- The Jordanian Government has made great efforts to increase exports in order to compensate for the positions that these exports lost in the Gulf states and the Iraqi market. However, it seems that these efforts have not yet resulted in complete compensation.

-- The situation of the current account in the balance of payments has improved, thus the international banking establishments believe that Jordan can still be given loans. Jordan's foreign debts, most of which are facilitated debts, are about $2.3 billion, but the proportion of these debts to the gross national product (45 percent) and to exports (70 percent) is still better than the acceptable level.

Thus it can be said that the chances of Jordan being unable to repay its debts or to do so on schedule are remote, even though there have been developments over the past 3 years which bear ominous signals, developments which are still having effects. Some of them are the following:

-- The rate of annual growth in the period between 1973 and 1983 varied between 7 and 20 percent. As an example, the gross national product rose by 19 percent in 1981, and by 13 percent in 1982. However, it recorded an increase of 3 percent in 1984, and 2 percent in 1985. These rates are not enough for a developing country like Jordan whose population grows by 3 percent a year. However, the Third 5-year Plan of 1986-1990 noted a growth of 5 percent, using means, tools, and productive capabilities that are considered realistic.

-- Growth in the past was poured into consumption, so imports tripled during the aforementioned period, and there was also an increased inclination toward building castles and villas. It seems that this big mistake contributes to the crisis today and that the Jordanian Government is aware of this dimension. Therefore, one of the goals of limiting imports is to save more money for investment, and in fact the trade deficit fell by 30 percent between 1983 and 1985.

-- Arab aid to Jordan fell from $1.25 billion to only $450 million in 1985, and officials expect that this aid will end after 1988. Moreover, remittances from working Jordanians have dropped by 10 percent, and some of those who had been working in the Gulf returned to Jordan after they lost their jobs.

-- Jordan has recorded a deficit in its current account during the 1980's. In 1983 it was $391 million, and in 1984 $264 million; then it rose to $135 million in 1985. The net balance of services also recorded a deficit, estimated at $200 million in 1985.

-- As a result of the continuous support of the dinar in facing the effects of the deficit in the current account, Jordan's reserve of foreign currency fell from $1.1 billion in 1979 to $423 million in 1985; in other words, enough to cover imports for only 2 months.

It is expected that the pressure on Jordan's reserves of hard currency will increase if the balance of services and remittances deteriorates further, and since it will not be possible to halt imports, Jordan will be forced to resort to more borrowing. However, the visit by the Jordanian prime minister, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, to Kuwait and his signing of an investment agreement with it carries more than one implication, the first being that

Jordan's future strategy will depend more and more on bilateral investment agreements with the Gulf states, according to which there will be agreements on creating a flow of money into Jordan in the form of investments this time, and not in the form of aid, which is expected to end in 1988. Thus, the government will achieve two important goals: preventing a serious deterioration in the balance of payments, and maintaining an acceptable rate of growth. The second implication is that Jordan will follow an unrestricted economic course which will give Arab investments more freedom of action with the aim of attracting more of them. It is essential to note that in the past 2 years the government of Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i has turned to selling some of the public establishments to the private sector, foremost of which was the Alia Air Transport Company.

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WEST BANK DELEGATION SEEKS AID, PRAISES PLAN

JN171018 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Dec 86 p 5

[Excerpts] Amman--The Jordanian development plan is receiving noticeable response from our people in the occupied territory in view of its benefits to them in terms of providing decent living conditions and maintaining our people's steadfastness on their land.

AL-DUSTUR yesterday interviewed a delegation from Hebron representing Prince Hasan's Housing Cooperative Society which arrived to meet with officials and present its needs and demand with the aim of starting projects to serve the people of Hebron.

Society President Talab Shihdah 'Awad Abu Sunaynah says the Society is trying to realize certain sublime aims headed by bolstering the citizens' steadfastness on their land. He said: We must remain steadfast on the land and preserve it, because steadfastness is a means of preserving this land, entrenching our roots, and promoting our national identity in the full sense of the term. Many youths in Hebron need support and jobs. We have come to Amman with the hope of receiving assistance from the competent authorities.

On the Society's plans, projects, and the assistance required, Abu Sunaynah said: The Society will work for building 45 houses on a piece of land it has purchased for this purpose in the al-Fahs area near Hebron slaughterhouse to house and entrench 45 Hebron families on their land.

Concluding his statement, Abu Sunaynah said: I would like to point out that we, in the occupied territory, appreciate Jordanian efforts to implement the development plan and we wish them success because this plan is very objective and is beneficial to every citizen in the West Bank and Gaza.

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KING HUSAYN ADDRESSES ARAB TRADE DELEGATIONS

JN151543 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Amman--His Majesty King Husayn received the Arab delegations participating in the 65th session of the General Federation of Arab Chambers of Trade, Industry, and Agriculture at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning. His majesty addressed the delegations, expressing the hope that they will succeed in their conference, which is part of the joint Arab action that can achieve the desired objectives for the large Arab homeland.

His majesty said that the Arab nation is required more than ever before to rise to the level of the challenges facing it, indicating that their conference is not only related to the present time, but also to building for the future. This, his majesty added, places upon their shoulders a special responsibility to the coming generations.

His Majesty King Husayn called on the participants to acquaint themselves with Jordan and its accomplishments and what it aspires to achieve in the face of the challenges surrounding it from every side--challenges which do not threaten it alone but the entire Arab entity. His majesty expressed the hope that we will be able to overcome the causes of weakness and dangers facing us. He also hoped that the conference will achieve the desired results and said that he will continue to serve the Arab nation not only as an official but also as a citizen and a soldier.

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CSO: 4400/80

TRADE FEDERATION MEETINGS END; RECOMMENDATIONS

JN181232 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Dec 86 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman--The Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (FACCIA) on Wednesday wound up its 65th meeting with Egypt joining the deliberations of the final session. The meeting issued several recommendations covering means to tighten Arab boycott regulations against Israel, create new Arab-international chambers of commerce and open Arab markets for produce from the occupied Arab territories.

At the outset of the meeting's deliberations on Monday, the participants extended an invitation to Egypt, whose membership in the federation had been revoked after Cairo signed its separate treaty with Israel in 1979. A special Egyptian delegation arrived in Amman and took part in Wednesday's final session.

A key FACCIA recommendation issued on Wednesday urged Arab states to open their markets for goods from the Israeli-occupied territories in order to contribute towards supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people living there. The participants undertook to talk European countries into making similar moves.

The recommendation also reaffirmed a previous resolution by the federation aimed at bringing about mechanisms to be instrumental in promoting exports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In this regard, the meeting undertook to set up a centre for marketing the produce of the occupied territories. The centre, to be based in Amman, will be under the supervision of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

On the scope of cooperation between Arab countries and foreign states within the framework of joint Arab international chambers of commerce, a recommendation called for initiating talks with officials from Spain, Canada, Kenya, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia towards setting up joint chambers of commerce.

On the existing joint chambers of commerce with Ireland, Australia, and West Germany, the meeting recommended readjustment and priority realignment with a

view to further enhance the activities being undertaken by the chambers in question.

The meeting also assessed a report by the joint Arab-European chambers of commerce on the proposed convening of a seminar on Arab boycott of Israeli regulations and economic measures in international trade disputes. The seminar is scheduled to convene in Geneva, Switzerland, next June. All Arab chambers of commerce were called upon to take part in the seminar.

Regarding another seminar on Arab-U.S. economic relations, the federation unanimously called for postponing the seminar, the second in a series of seminars on the same issue.

On a proposal to set up a central Arab-U.S. chamber of commerce in Washington, the participants favoured delaying the issue. However, the federation recommended taking part in the 22 January meeting of the New York-based joint chamber of commerce to further discuss prospects for setting up a Washington-based chamber of commerce.

On Tuesday, the federation's secretary general, Dr Burhan al-Dajani, urged the participants not to move ahead with setting up a Washington-based chamber since "the atmosphere was not conducive for such a step."

Dr Al-Dajani had headed a special delegation on a visit to the United States and subsequently recommended a delay in the proposed project.

The meeting also recommended setting up a pan-Arab concern to be entrusted with promoting inter-Arab trade and economic cooperation.

Finally, the participants charged the federation's secretariat to draw up a detailed memorandum on a comprehensive review of future activities and requirements to achieve Arab economic integration. This memorandum will be discussed during the 66th session of the FACCIA.

At the conclusion of the session, the participants sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn in which they paid tribute to his endeavours aimed at settling Arab differences and to bring about Arab economic integration.

The participants sent also cables of thanks to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i for their efforts towards promoting inter-Arab relations.

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CSO: 4400/80

AL-RIFA'I OPENS ARAB TRADE FEDERATION MEETING

JN151611 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Dec 86

[Text] Amman--Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has said that Jordan believes in Arabism as a way of life and has, since its independence, called for Arab solidarity as a work method in confronting the difficult challenges facing the large homeland.

In a speech inaugurating the 65th session of the General Federation of Arab Trade, Industry, and Agriculture today, the prime minister added that Jordan has always fulfilled its Arab duties and never failed to attend an Arab summit. It hosted the Amman economic summit conference which for the first time drew up a joint Arab economic action strategy and a pan-Arab action charter. Jordan has also hosted some Arab organizations, including the Arab Economic Unity Council, honored all Arab charters, treaties, and agreements, and sincerely translated into practice its firm commitment to the unified Arab course of action.

He said that the principles of the great Arab revolt, which are contained in Jordan's charter and constitution, turned this country into a melting pot in which borders and distances disappeared and in which all the Arabs were equal, making no distinction between a Jordanian and any other Arab.

The prime minister added that the aspired-to economic unity cannot be achieved except through Arab economic integration, which should not remain a dream in the subconscious or a slogan that will soon founder on the political borders. This integration, he said, should be the outcome of real practices that turn the Arab economic map into one homogeneous zone free of barriers obstructing production, the flow of commodities, goods, and services, and the establishment of major joint ventures dedicated to exporting and to replacing the goods being imported from various countries.

The prime minister indicated that Israel is trying hard to swallow up the occupied Arab lands in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and empty them of their people, contain their economy, and annex it to the Israeli entity. However, he added, the people's steadfastness there and their Arab affiliation as well as the Jordanian Government's measures to support them and keep open the two banks' bridges and the channels of contact with them have prevented this containment. He indicated that the Arab Economic and Social Council issued a resolution during its meeting in Amman in September this year calling for the opening of Arab markets to produce from the occupied territories.

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CSO: 4400/80

AL-RA'Y CONDEMNS 'ASSASSINATION' OF JERUSALEM ELECTRICITY COMPANY

JN200901 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Dec 86 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Assassination of Jerusalem Electricity Company"]

[Text] Yesterday we saw a new picture of a declining Arab League manifesting itself in the statement reacting to Israel's arbitrary curtailment of districts served by the Jerusalem Electricity Co. It is striking that the Israeli measure was met by the Arab League with nothing more than condemnation and an appeal that the United Nations preserve the institutions and identity of the holy city, as though the League's role has been reduced to one of making symbolic gestures, notwithstanding the fact the Israeli move is extremely serious, being part of a scheme to Judaize Jerusalem and to destroy one of its most important Arab economic establishments.

So, all the Arab League is now capable of is condemning and appealing, whereas in the past it held such potent weapons as oil, Arab defense pacts, and coordination among member states. Nothing expresses the current Arab conditions more eloquently than this picture of the Arab League. It also shows that the continuation of this situation helps Israel promote its evil schemes, as planned.

It is worthwhile recalling that Jordan has warned of the political and economic significance of Israeli action against the electricity company of Arab Jerusalem and has often declared its support for the company. In light of this fact, it is ironic that Israel timed the announcement about action against the electricity company to coincide with one characterizing as successful the recent talks in Cairo by the Israeli energy minister which produced an agreement on Egyptian oil shipments to Israel next year. The Arabs have received a double stab from Israel: It has, at once, dealt a blow to the prime Arab source of energy in Jerusalem and secured its energy requirements from the Arabs. Nothing can be more humiliating for the Arabs.

Just as a reminder we would like to say that Israel's assassination of the Jerusalem Electricity Co. is a move directed against Jordan, the Palestinians, and all Arabs. This is a truth of which all Arabs should be mindful. The Israeli action against the electricity company should be met with strong Arab measures. At least the Israeli aggressors should be denied access to Arab energy.

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CSO: 4400/80

HEALTH MINISTER DISCUSSES WATER, SEWAGE PROJECTS

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's 1986-1990 five-year development plan provides for supplying approximately 99 per cent of the country's population with drinking water, and implementing sewerage and sanitation projects which would cover 65 per cent of the Kingdom, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said here on Saturday.

He said that since the early 1950s, Jordan has worked out plans to protect its water resources and over the last three decades it has developed its water networks with the result that nearly 90 per cent of the population are now regularly provided with running water.

The minister, who was addressing the opening session of a regional conference on water and sanitation held in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), said that the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) exerts continual efforts for meeting the target of the international decade for water and sanitation which ends in 1990 by developing the country's water resources and providing sufficient supplies for the population.

Any misuse of water resources is more than likely to cause pollution and the spread of disease and for this reason, a health programme has been prepared for controlling water resources and the distribution of potable water to citizens, he continued. Also, the draining away of waste water, some of which is being treated for use in irrigation purposes, is another measure being taken to prevent wastage of water resources, Dr. Hamzeh said. The WHO, the minister continued, is helping Jordan to work out a comprehensive set of specifications on potable water.

WHO regional representative Hassan Abdul Razzaq Al Jaza'iri also made a speech in which he underlined the urgency of ensuring sufficient water supplies for all citizens and adequate sanitation facilities. He also called on governments to involve the local population in such projects.

The objective of the international decade for water and sanitation is the protection of people's health but, he continued, without water, such health cannot be safeguarded.

Taking part in the conference are delegates from Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Yemen, and Pakistan as well as Jordan and the WHO.

CSO: 4400/90
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IMPROVED SEWAGE SYSTEM IN AL-ZARQA'

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 4 Dec 86 p 14

[Text]

IMPROVEMENT OF the sewerage system in Zarqa, Jordan's second largest city, will be helped with a 2.55 million ECUs loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB — the European Community's bank for long-term finance). The funds, to the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), have been made available under the second EEC/Jordan financial protocol from the EIB's own resources.

The finance goes towards the supply and laying of some 77 km of sewers and their connection to treatment plants in Zarqa, one of the principal industrial centres of Jordan, 25 km. North-East of Amman. Due for completion by early 1988, at a cost of 6.9 million ECUs, the project forms part of a nationwide scheme to provide urban centres with water supplies and centralized sewage disposal and treatment facilities. Finance towards other components of the wider scheme is being provided by the World Bank, the Kreditanstalt fur Ziederaufbau and the Islamic Development Bank.

The loan is for 15 years at 5.3 per cent taking into account a 2 per cent interest subsidy borne by the European Community budget. The budgetary funds involved are managed by the EIB under mandate given by the Commission on behalf of the EEC.

This loan brings to 33.9 million ECUs the total funds from the EIBs own resources under the second financial protocol (1983 — October 1986). The protocol foresees a total of 37 million ECUs from the EIB's own resources, and from the European Community's budget, 7 million in loan on special conditions an 19 million in grant aid (part of which goes towards interest subsidies on the EIB loans).

CSO: 4400/93
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PROSPECTS FOR OLIVE HARVEST DISCUSSED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 86 p 3

[Article by Monika Warich]

[Text]

AMMAN — This year's olive harvest, which is expected to be completed by mid-December, will be a good one, but the final yields are not likely to be available before January 1987, according to Director of Highland Development Project Ahmad Rimawi. The first rains, which came particularly early in October this year, did the olives a world of good, he added. Before, they had been poorly developed with a low oil content, as could be expected after the previous very dry seasons. But another more important reason for a good harvest is the fact that olive trees naturally produce high yields only every second year. This rhythm is more obvious in Jordan, where in addition to a harsh climate, fertilising and irrigation practices are not always perfect and damaging harvesting methods — such as hitting the trees' outer branches with sticks — are still in use, Mr. Rimawi added.

The second, heavy rains at the beginning of November are not likely to have affected this year's harvest as much, but coming harvests will benefit from the greatly increased soil moisture. The whole harvest in most parts of Jordan has been delayed by about a week by the second rains, he said, but no damage to speak of has been done to olive farmers.

Favourite fruit tree

In the Jordanian highlands, particularly the Western parts, more olive trees spring from the ground every year. Presently, they seem to be the farmers' favourite fruit tree crop.

There are two major projects in Jordan which, among other things, promote and support the establishment of orchards, the Highland Development Project and the Zarqa River Basin Project, being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with foreign assistance. Both projects operate in the main olive growing areas of Jordan between Amman and Irbid and on the slopes down to the Jordan Valley.

Mr. Rimawi explained that Jordanian farmers prefer olives to other crops for several reasons. First, olives are very well-adapted to the dry and hot climate. It is possible to grow them in areas with as little as 250 mm of annual rainfall, he said, although below 300 mm of rainfall they drastically reduce their growth rate and give unsatisfactory yields. The second reason is that the growing of olives is relatively easy and does not require any specialist skills, an important factor for many Jordanian farmers who frequently come from a non-farming, often

bedouin background. Olives in Jordan also have a very good market and marketing facilities through government-run wholesale markets in Amman, Salt, Irbid, Jerash and Mafraq, while the very early olives are being sold along the roadsides. Last year, one kilogramme of raw olives fetched 400 fils (JD 0.400), and prices are fairly stable from year to year, Mr. Rimawi added.

Help with the harvest

But the rush to the olive is not entirely without difficulties, as an emergency programme recently initiated by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) to help farmers with the olive harvest, indicates. According to RSCN Director Maher Abu Ja'fr, the expenditure for harvesting the olives amount to as much as 50 per cent of the total production costs and therefore, the RSCN agreed with the Ministry of Education to rally pupils from secondary schools to help farmers harvest the olives on a voluntary basis. Presently, labourers around the towns (Amman, Salt, Jerash) are available at rates of JD 3.000 to JD 3.500 per day for the harvest, while farmers in remote areas have to cover the cost for the transport for their labourers. Otherwise, if they cannot fall back on their family for the harvest, they have to employ contractors. There is also very little scope for mechanisation in olive harvesting apart from the use of so-called tree shakers.

Marketing

According to an expert working with the Zarqa River Basin Project, the high production costs of olives and olive oil in Jordan make it very unlikely that they will be able to compete on the international market in the foreseeable future. Locally produced olive oil is presently sold at JD 2.000 per kg, which is more than double the price of imported olive oil, such as that, from Tunisia. This high price is maintained by import restrictions. As the international market for olives and olive oil is also saturated — olive oil is already one of the European Community's excess products — Jordan's expensive oil does not stand a great chance of entering the EC market.

At the moment, there is no real problem for the farmer to sell his olives on the local market, and quite a large amount of the oil and pickled olives are still distributed within families, following a deeply rooted belief that one's own olive oil is always the best. But in the coming five to ten years, olive gluts in Jordan could occur, when all the trees that have been planted during the last five years start to yield. In fact, advisers for the Zarqa River Project are now advising farmers not to plant any more olives but to diversify their orchards with other fruit trees such as apricots, pears, figs etc.

Concerning their olives, farmers should concentrate on improving their stock by means of regular pruning, fertilising and irrigating the trees if necessary. These measures could increase the oil content of the olives to nearly 30 per cent, while with the local varieties — mainly Nabaleh from Palestine — contents vary from 15 to 20 per cent.

Olive trees start yielding in their fifth to seventh year, their productivity rises up to the 35th year to remain constant for the following 80 to 120 years, then declining slowly.

All over Jordan, the Nabaleh variety is liked best by the farmers, Mr. Rimawi said. Trials conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture to introduce Italian species were a complete failure as these more Mediterranean varieties needed too much humidity. Improved varieties of Nabaleh and other local sorts were no success either as their fruits and oil did not suit the farmers' taste and the traditional olive varieties continue to be grown all over Jordan as well as the West Bank.

CSO: 4400/90
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OLIVE OIL PURCHASED FROM EAST, WEST BANKS

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply has decided to purchase 3,000 tonnes of olive oil from farmers on both the East and West Banks of Jordan. The ministry's decision was taken in response to a directive issued by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and is designed to support olive farmers in Jordan. The prime minister has decided that a special committee comprising representatives of the Ministry of Supply, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation be set up to regulate the purchase and delivery of the olive oil.

The purchase price for an 18 kilogramme tin of pure olive oil was fixed by the Ministry at JD 25.

The newly-formed committee met on Monday under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Supply's under secretary and decided to form sub-committees to purchase and receive the oil.

Last month, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud gave permission for olives and olive oil produced in the occupied West bank to enter the East Bank in order to meet a shortage of these products in local markets.

A statement issued by the minister's office said that permission has been given for 14,920 tonnes of olive oil to come to the East Bank between Nov. 15, 1986 and August 1987. Of this amount, 7,290 tonnes is to be used here and the remainder will be considered as surplus and is to be marketed abroad, the statement said.

The statement said that 10,100 tonnes of olives will be allowed into the East Bank to meet the current shortage, provided that only 2,934 tonnes are marketed here and the remainder sold abroad.

The minister also issued a communique banning the importation of olives or olive oil from any other country during 1986 and 1987. The minister's statement requested the Ministry of Supply, the Armed Forces and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) to work together in ensuring that the local market is supplied with its needs of olives and olive oil. Local olive oil is being packed in different sizes of containers which are produced by the JCO. The decision also allows locally produced olives and olive oil to be exported to other countries.

CSO: 4400/90
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PROBLEMS FACING PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY DISCUSSED

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 11-17 Dec 86 p 11

[Article by Pam Dougherty]

[Text]

JORDAN Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Managing Director Wasef Azar has firmly rejected claims by American phosphate producers that the expansion of Jordan's phosphate production is a threat to their interests.

He was commenting on a protest filed recently with the US's Eximbank by the International Fertilizer Development Centre on behalf of US phosphate producers, on the grounds that a credit line from Eximbank for the supply of an electric dragline to JPMC was in direct violation of a recent bill passed by Congress. The bill bans the use of Eximbank funds 'to establish or expand the production of another nation's commodities if such products are in world surplus, if they compete directly with US products or if such assistance would cause substantial iniury to US producers.' According to Mr Azar "all the allegations contained in the protest are incorrect."

JPMC's production in the first eleven months of 1986 has actually increased to 5,726,000 tonnes up from 5,200,000 tonnes in the same period last year but, Mr Azar says, the production capacity of the mines has remained at the 1980 figure of 7.8 million tonnes (with the closure of the Ruseifeh mine capacity is actually 6.8 million tonnes) and any increase in production brings the mines closer to their potential capacity it does not increase that capacity. He pointed out that even where JPMC is increasing its sales it is only benefiting from established customers expanded demand but it is not increasing its percentage of the market.

Jordan was providing 85 per cent of Indonesian requirements but, although its sales to Indonesia have grown it now has only 50 per cent of the market. The same has happened in India.

More importantly, says Mr Azar the new dragline is necessary so that JPMC can lower its production costs at Al Hassa and Al Abyad as part of its effort to cut prices to meet intensive competition and enable the phosphate industry to work.

He says that Third World producers are increasingly unable to compete in world markets because of US producers who are "dumping" rather than selling, their phosphates for as little as $1.25 tonne, a price that is actually below their production costs. Mr Azar says that country such as Jordan has only one substantial usable natural resource — its minerals. When producers in countries such as the US with their varied resource base, threaten the export of those minerals they severely undercut the effectiveness of their governments highly publicized aid efforts.

CSO: 4400/9
/9317

PLASTICS RECYCLING PROJECT DISCUSSED

Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English 4 Dec 86 p 5

[Article by Brian Maudsley]

[Text]

THERE ARE about 7,000 tonnes of plastic in the Jordan Valley at any one time, and about 7,000 hectares of land is under plastic. This plastic is used for greenhouses and in irrigation schemes; it has a working life of about two years, this means that something in the order of 3,500 tonnes is discarded every year; a massive waste of material, a loss to the farmers and an environmental eyesore. The extreme adaptability of plastics and their low cost makes them suitable for a wide variety of tasks, from greenhouses to wall insulation, computer cases to baths.

We are living in the 'plastics age.' This has caused an extraordinary growth of the plastics industry with a resulting increase in waste disposal problems. By their very nature they are very resistant to corrosion and decay. Polythene, PVC, polystyrene, perspex and polypropylene all have this feature, also they are all derived from petroleum and consist of very long chains of repeating molecules: polymers.

The Mechanical Engineering Department of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), under the direction of Mr Hasan Khadra, has a very comprehensive plastics section. Dr Amin Al-Irobaidi, who heads this section, has, a very comprehensive plastics section. Dr Amin Al-Irobaidi, who heads this section, has a special interest in the environmental impact of plastics. He says that a new company is due to go into operation early next year which will recycle the waste agricultural plastic sheeting in the Jordan Valley. They have carried out a feasibility study and have decided that it is economically viable. One of the most expensive parts of such an operation is the collection of the waste plastic. One way in which this could be simplified has been suggested: the farmers could deliver the plastic to the factory and receive a certain amount of new sheeting in return, much like trading in an old car in part exchange for a new one.

Dr Al-Irobaidi's section is planning a research project into increasing the lifespan of the plastic sheeting. This should commence in the near future. The aim is to develop long-life sheets which will last something like four years, instead of the present two. This would be of considerable benefit to the farmers and reduce the waste disposal problems. To help with this kind of research and for testing plastic materials to ensure that they meet the required standards the RSS have an impressive array of apparatus.

As plastics area expected to last for several years exposed to the elements (their ability to do this being the cause of their polluting ability) it could take decades to develop a satisfactory long-life sheet. To speed up the process the 'accelerated aging' apparatus

combines a powerful ultra violent source, simulating strong sunlight, with complete control over humidity and temperature; thus three years aging can be accomplished in about one month. There is also an over-refrigerator which can provide any temperature between minus 100 oC and plus 200oC. Their latest testing apparatus is about JD 22,000 worth of high technology called a thermomechanical analyser and a machine to measure the specific heat of plastics with incredible accuracy.

While the prospects for agricultural plastics seem optimistic, the disposal of other forms of plastic is more intractable. Recycling of plastic waste is certainly possible but there are a number of practical difficulties. There is a great variety of different types of plastic each with its own particular characteristics suited to a specific task. Thus the waste must be morted into the different clashes by hand or using expensive machinery before treatment and re-use. Mixed plastics can sometimes be used for items such as shoe soles, toys and plant pots in which quality and purity is not essential but this sorting remains the single largest problem.

Plastics can also be burnt. Some types, such as polythene, will burn without causing pollution as the products of combustion are water and carbon dioxide; although increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have been shown to be causing a global warning — the 'greenhouse effect.' Other plastics contain other elements like the chlorine atoms in Poly Vinyl Chloride (PYC). When this burns, it releases hydrogen chloride gas which dissolves in rainwater to make hydrochloric acid. Acid rain causes considerable damage to vegetation, the main cause in Europe is sulphuric acid from burning coal.

Another approach is to make the plastics bio-degradable (this means that they can be attacked by bacteria and rot away into the soil), or easily degradable by environmental factors such as ultra violet light. This sounds ideal as all of those plastic bags would simply rot away without trace. Unfortunately, Dr Al Irobaidi pointed out, little is known about the effects the degraded products of the plastics would have on the soil. It is entirely possible that a 'superficial' waste disposal problem, which is primarily aesthetic, could become something more serious by poisoning the soil and having far reaching effects along biological food chains.

A great increase in the cost of oil would dramatically reduce the use of plastics as their cost is totally dependent on it. Of course, packaging would be replaced by paper and cardboard thus placing even greater stress on that already dwindling resource — trees.

Thus the only solution at present is social, not technological. What is needed is an increased public awareness of the litter problem particularly with regard to plastic. Our lives would not be the same without it, but we must not let it dominate the otherwise beautiful countryside of Jordan.

CSO: 4400/93
/9317

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--The Senegalese president has received the credentials of Jordan's ambassador in Rabat Wa'il al-Masri as a nonresident ambassador to Senegal. [Summary] [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 86 JN] /9599

BRITISH LOAN, AID OFFER--Amman (J.t.)--The British government has announced a proposed new programme of aid for Jordan. The British minister for overseas development informed the House of Commons on Tuesday that, in addition to the existing programme of technical cooperation between Britain and Jordan, the British government had offered a new loan of 10 million pounds on concessionary terms as a contribution to Jordan's new 5-year plan. The loan would be spent on capital projects agreed between the British and Jordanian governments, said a press release issued by the British Embassy here. The minister further stated that in support to Jordan's objective of assisting the economic and social development of the occupied territories it was proposed to increase British aid to the West Bank and Gaza to 5 million pounds on grant terms over the next 5 years. [Text] [Amman JORDAN TIMES in Engl sh 18 Dec 86 p 1 JN] /9599

WEST BANK, GAZA PRODUCE ALLOWED--Amman--Agriculture Minister Marwan al-Humud has decided to allow potatoes from the West Bank to enter the counter as of the middle of this month. Eggplants will be allowed in effective 25 December and grafted saplings of apple and almond trees will be allowed in as of 10 December 1986 provided they are free of agricultural pests. Grafted saplings of citrus fruit trees, olive trees, and others are allowed as of the beginning of this month provided they are free of pests. The minister also decided to allow, for export purposes only, the entry of 150 metric tons of strawberries from the Gaza Strip as of 8 December and the entry of oranges, grapefruits, and lemons from Gaza as of 15 December. [Text] [Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Dec 86 p 2] /9599

RADIO DETAILS ISRAELI MEASURES IN GAZA--Amman--Occupied Territory Affairs Ministry sources have said that since June 1967 the Israeli occupation forces have confiscated more than 30 percent of the Occupied Gaza Strip with the aim of establishing Jewish settlements. In a report, the ministry added that the settlement operations in the strip have gone beyond establishing new settlements and confiscating more lands to include the execution of a number of settlement projects. The report points out that the occupation authorities

have made many changes in the economic patterns of the occupied Gaza Strip, stripping it of its independency and rendering it dependent on the Israeli economy through arbitrary measures, imposing heavy taxes, and preventing the exportation of Gaza produce. [Text] [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 86] /9599

JORDAN, FRG SIGN AGREEMENT--Amman, 18 Dec (PETRA)--The Government of Jordan and the FRG today signed memoranda on technical cooperation in the field of rural development. According to these memoranda, the FRG Government will provide Jordan with assistance in rural development in the Al-Zarqa River basin. This assistance will take the form of assigning a number of German experts to provide consultative services to improve the living conditions of area residents, supplying the technical apparatus required for the project, contributing to operating expenditures, and training a number of Jordanian experts to replace the Germans once their mission is ended. Jordanian Minister of Agriculture Marwan al-Humud signed the memoranda for the Jordanian Government while the FRG ambassador on Amman signed for the FRG Government. [Summary] [Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 18 Dec 86 JN] /9599

POTASH EXPORTS TO PRC--During talks Sulayman al-Hawari, deputy director general of the Arab Potash Co., held while in the PRC an agreement was reached whereby Jordan will export to the PRC 150,000 tons of potash in the first 6 months of 1987. It is also expected that an agreement to export 100,000 tons of potash to China in the last 6 months of 1987 will be signed. Thus Jordan's exports of potash to China in 1987 will total 250,000 tons. Al-Hawari and the delegation accompanying him returned to Amman yesterday following a tour including the PRC, the ROK, and Malaysia. The production of the Arab Potash Co. will rise to 1.2 million tons in 1987 and, following expansion work in the next 2 years, production capacity will rise to 1.4 million tons of potash annually. [Summary] [Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Dec 86 pp 1, 20 JN] /9599

CSO: 4400/88

GULF PETROCHEMICAL RESEARCH CENTER PROPOSED

Kuwait AL-BALAGH in Arabic 16 Nov 86 p 65

[Article: "Construction of Gulf Center for Industrial Research and Petrochemical Marketing"]

[Text] The Gulf Consultations Organization is holding a roundtable meeting at the organization's headquarters in Doha to discuss the establishment of a proposed Gulf Center to conduct research in the manufacture and marketing of petrochemical products within the framework of the efforts to promote the common Gulf industrial projects.

The meeting will discuss a working paper prepared by the organization concerning the establishment of a pecialized industrial regional center for research in the manufacture and marketing of petrochemical products in the Gulf Arab countries. The center will supervise the different activity programs to enhance the consumption of final petrochemical materials and substitute them for many of the primary materials imported by these countries. It will also supervise the preparation of technical cadres highly qualified in the fields of research and development and other activities. It will also conduct marketing research and the determination of future needs.

The working paper covers the thoughts and proposals of the organization concerning the method of establishing hte proposed center and the several aspects of its expected activities.

Representatives of a number of Gulf establishments and companies active in the field of petrochemical manufacturing will participate in the meeting. These include the Qatar Company for Petrochemicals, Abu Dhabi National Petroleum Company, the Gulf Company for Petrochemical Manufactures in Bahrain, The Saudi Company for Basic Industries, the Petroleum Petrochemical Manufacturing Company in Kuwait, the Gulf Investment Organization, and the Ministry of Industry and Minerals in the Iraqi Republic.

12655/12859
CSO: 4404/126

SYRIAN PLOT AGAINST AL-JUMAYYIL ALLEGED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Nov 86 pp 14, 15

[Article by Jihad Farah: "Hubayqah Has Arms and Armed Men To Storm East Beirut: Damascus Resumes the Battle To Topple al-Jumayyil"]

[Text] A Lebanese politician said that when he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad last week, he asked him about the amount of progress that intermediaries endeavoring to bring about a reconciliation between him and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil had made. Al-Asad smiled and asked him: Do you believe that there are intermediaries between al-Jumayyil and me? Do you think that we can meet now or in the future? Then what information is this that you are talking about? Who is circulating it in Lebanon? The Syrian president ended the questions in order to discuss with him the economic and social situation that threatens the Lebanese.

The Lebanese politician, talking with some of his close friends, affirmed that he had information that the latest bridge linking al-Jumayyil and al-Asad had not been severed. However, the problem was that al-Jumayyil, in his relations with al-Asad, for 4 years up until now, has not been able to figure out what Damascus wants from Lebanon.

Three Demands

The intermediaries who go back and forth between Damascus and Beirut in order to reopen all the bridges have been disappointed. These intermediaries included Lebanese, Arab, and European politicians, some of whom work in the area of finance and trade. The most prominent of these are the governor of the German state of Bavaria, Franz Strauss; the former ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Mahdi al-Tajir; and two Lebanese businessmen, Rafiq al-Hariri and 'Asam Faris. Al-Asad's basic demands on al-Jumayyil have resulted in the bridges being shut down. Damascus' demands are in essence three: consenting to special and privileged relations between Lebanon and Syria; acceptance of the meaning of military, political, cultural, and economic relations; and the return of the former leader of the Lebanese Forces, Elie Hubayqah, hero of the Sabra and Shatila massacre in 1982, to East Beirut. Al-Jumayyil considers these demands injurious to the rights and sovereignty of Lebanon, since it is unreasonable that it will consent to these demands because they would turn him into a governor ruling Lebanon, which

would be transformed by the demands into a mere province governed in reality by al-Asad in Damascus and which anyone could put his eye on any time he wanted. Therefore, al-Jumayyil has affirmed to the intermediaries that he is not prepared to accept any step that might infringe upon Lebanon's sovereignty or diminish its independence and that the Syrian president can wait through another 12 years of wars, bloodshed, and boobytrapped cars, perhaps for another president to agree to his demands.

It is absolutely certain that Lebanon has entered a dark tunnel of bombings following the collapse of the mediation attempts between Damascus and Ba'bada and that there are international and regional difficulties that prevent steps being made in the direction of peace, although new events have occurred that have compelled the Syrian president to retreat further and a summit between him and al-Jumayyil is coming.

Best President

The Syrian president does not hide the fact that he said that any solution or even any political truce in Lebanon has become impossible, but he attributes this to al-Jumayyil's style of governing. At the same time al-Jumayyil answers this statement by wondering about the reasons why al-Asad did not reach a solution or even a "positive movement" in Lebanon during President Suleiman Frangieh's era or during the late President Elias Sarkis' era. By this he means that the problem is in Syria and not in Lebanon.

Indeed, Syrian policy in Lebanon is hard to understand and is not hard to describe negatively, since it deals with the factional and illegitimate militias and has always sought to strike a blow to legitimate institutions, whether they be military or civilian. It harmed Lebanon when it used it for blackmail in the international terrorism arena. Those who follow Syrian policy in Lebanon believe that it has been in a constant state of retreat, especially during the last 3 years, since the illegitimate organizations that Damascus dealt with turned into burdens and the European capitals began to accuse the Syrian capital of terrorism, rather than accusing the organizations that it dealt with.

Although President al-Asad himself is the one who said, "Al-Jumayyil is the best president that Lebanon has known," relations between him and the Lebanese president have reached their lowest point and the givens between the Lebanese capital and the Syrian capital have been turned into explosive factors, and not into factors of "positive movement."

Whatever the analysis of the relations between Lebanon and Syria, al-Asad is persona non grata with all the Lebanese factions and even his allies, whom he uses by force in Lebanon, are extremely resentful of him and admit that al-Jumayyil expresses the reality of their position, which they cannot express because of their involvement in certain Syrian plots. AL-DUSTUR has information that Damascus, which has resumed in the last 2 months the battle to overthrow al-Jumayyil, affirms that the prime minister, Rashid Karami, will not remain until the end and that the head of the Progressive Socialist Party, Walid Junblatt, will try to avoid entering into a battle which he does not believe has any advantage for him or for Lebanon in general.

The battle to overthrow al-Jumayyil has requirements and instruments. The primary requirements are: boobytrapped cars, missiles, guns equipped with silencers, and the opening of several fronts in several regions in an attempt by Damascus to give the impression to western capitals that its forces are a fundamental necessity for security in Lebanon and that its return to the eastern regions is what will ensure security and ensure at the same time al-Jumayyil's remaining in power. The departure of some American diplomats from the American Embassy located in East Beirut indicates the anticipated violence of the battles and the bloody tragedy that awaits the Lebanese.

Return of Hubayqah

AL-DUSTUR can confirm that the head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, Colonel Ghazi Kan'an, has asked some of the Lebanese parties and militias to muster some of their armed forces to join up with Elie Hubayqah, who will use them to launch an attack from the north to penetrate the eastern sector. About 500 armed men from the Amal militia, led by Nabih Birri, the Lebanese Communist Party, the Syrian National Social Party, and al-Asad militia, selected from the Syrian army to be under the command of 'Asam Qansuh in Lebanon, and from Hizbollah, which receives its arms and money from Tehran [as published]. It is expected that these armed groups will try to penetrate the eastern sectors from barren al-Bitrun, which military observers think will probably suffer extensive damage, since massive concentrations of the Lebanese forces, led by Samir Ja'ja', are assembled in this area, in addition to detachments from the Lebanese army. It is not unlikely that the air force will participate, as already happened last 27 September, when Elie Hubayqah tried to penetrate the eastern sectors from al-Ashrafiyah.

Ambiguous Relations

It is interesting that Karami has assumed leadership of the battle to overthrow al-Jumayyil by political means and that Colonel Ghazi Kan'an has assumed leadership in the military area. Arab and international contacts have not succeeded in keeping Karami from entering into a battle that has begun to eat at his political capital and changed him, in the eyes of the Lebanese and Arab and international forces, into a mere executor of the Syrian president's policy in Lebanon.

Those looking for the price that France has paid Syria and Iran for the sake of obtaining the release of its hostages in Lebanon talk about the ambiguous relations between Paris and Damascus and those close to the Syrian regime in Beirut say that the Syrian president got a green light from the French capital to undertake a military operation in the eastern sectors, on the condition that it be quick and that it spare Christian blood, because if the battle drags on, Paris cannot remain silent and will be obligated to take a strong position, so that it will not be accused of abandoning Lebanon and the Christians in particular. No other political quarter has confirmed this information, which is being propagated by people close to Damascus, and it was not unlikely that al-Asad would try to benefit from the climate of rapprochement with France in order to engage in a military strike against his enemies and opponents in Lebanon, the foremost of which are the president and the Lebanese army.

The question raised in Lebanese circles is: Will the Syrian army directly interfere in the battles?

The answer is that Hubayqah and the other factional militias allied with the Iranian and Syrian regimes have failed in the past to achieve any victory over the Lebanese army. Syria finds itself vexed at the collapse of its allies militarily, politically, and economically. Therefore, the Syrian army will intervene by shelling the eastern sectors and striking at army concentrations and military barracks. Perhaps what annoys Damascus most are the victories that the Palestinian Liberation Organization has achieved over its military arm, the Amal militia, which is suffering from internal collapse, both in its ranks and leadership.

However, the question that the Lebanese president does not answer is: What interest does France have in giving a green light to the Syrian regime?

Certain Lebanese circles say that Syria is indicating to France its willingness to head toward a settlement with Israel, if it can make real gains in Lebanon and they say that Syria, if it strengthens its hold on the eastern sectors, will eliminate the presence of any terrorist centers. The circles themselves believe that it is likely that this stage is tantamount to Syria's last chance, since the American administration prefers to entrust to Israel the task of striking at terrorism and the camps currently in Lebanon. This is what will have a negative effect on the structure of political and demographic life in Syria itself.

Those close to former president Camille Chamoun say that the Syrian role is living now in an intensive care unit and that the various medicines and treatments that are being used to revive and resuscitate it will not work, because it has entered the phase of real death. They add that "neither France, nor the United States, nor Israel can sell Lebanon to the Syrian regime, if the Lebanese decided to resist until death."

What Information Is More Correct?

No one can assert authoritatively the soundness of any one of the formulas offered. However, it is certain that Damascus has resumed the battle to overthrow the Lebanese president, who has been described as "obstinate and malicious," and that its success seems impossible despite the fact that the Syrian capital is capable of harming him personally and directly.

Up until now, Syria has succeeded in achieving one thing and that is the downfall of a number of institutions, in addition to bringing down the Lebanese pound. If there is a secret behind the softness of al-Asad's voice toward France, it is that this softness has its origin in his attempt to achieve his ambition to seize Lebanon, and this is a battle more costly to Syria than to Lebanon.

13292/13046
CSO: 4404/124

BRIEFS

HIZBOLLAH PATRONIZES AMAL DISSENTER--Reports coming out of Southern Lebanon indicate that Hizbollah, the client of Tehran, is currently trying to exploit the conflict that has recently appeared between Mr Daud Daud, the political officer of the Amal movement in the South, and Minister Nabih Birri in order to get close to Daud and to encourage him to break off from the Amal movement and to join Islamic Amal, which is considered the backbone of the Hizbollah movement. In this framework, the reports themselves say that Khomeyni's representative in Saida, Shaykh 'Ali al-Gharawi, met twice with Daud last week and informed him of Tehran's willingness to give him a large amount of financial and military assistance if he publicly announced his opposition to Nabih Birri. It is worthy noting that Daud Daud himself is the man whom the Iranian embassy in Beirut considered "unsuitable" until very recently. A source close to the head of the Amal Movement, Nabih Birri, said that Daud's name was also on a list of the principal individuals whom the Iranian embassy had prepared plans to assassinate. [Text] [London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Nov 86 p 5] 13292/13046

MORE WEAPONS FOR AL-MURABITUN--There is evidence that indicates that al-Muarbitun has regained its strength and that arms are flowing to it, perhaps with the knowledge of the Lebanese army. Likewise, a large number of them have returned to West Beirut from all parts of Lebanon. AL-DUSTUR has information that concentrations of the organization have begun to form in al-Zaydaniyah, the stronghold of the independent Nasserites, with whom they allied recently. The independent Nasserite movement is the one that sent Representative Najah Wakim to the House of Representatives in the elections that were held following the death of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. This council still exists today, because no elections have been held since the beginning of the Lebanese civil war in 1975. [Text] [London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Dec 86 p 3] 13292/13046

CSO: 4404/124

SHAYKH KHALIFAH ON COUNTRY'S ROLE IN ARAB SOLIDARITY

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 510, 29 Nov 86 pp 48-49

[Article: "Country's Capabilities Put Forth for Arab Solidarity"]

[Text] Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani, the prince of Qatar, emphasized in a speech inaugurating the 15th session of the Qatari Advisory Council that his country is following, with great regret, the sanguinary fighting between brothers in Lebanon, and that we appeal to those brothers to close their ranks against the criminal Israeli practices through which it attempts to inflame their differences in order to continue its odious occupation of their country which we deeply hope will stabilize to resume its major role side by side with its sister Arab States in the service of the Pan Arab nation.

Concerning the Iraqi-Iranian war, Prince Khalifa said that every sincere person is pained to see the war enter its 7th year with increasing intensity making the two countries, and our one nation, lose great human, material, and moral capabilities that we direly need to continue our struggle against our common enemy, and his sinful aggression against our rights and sacrosanct rights.

The prince of Qatar stressed that the latest summit for the Gulf Cooperation Council States which was held in Abu Dhabi represented a new and important thrust to attain the goals of the region's countries and peoples. The council's six states have realized good achievements bringing them closer to reaching their goals of integration. He said that the council's states believe that their integration is the means to increase their capacity to serve our people and nation, and since we are in indivisible part of the pan Arab and pan Islamic nation, we greatly strive to assist our unified causes, and call for uniting our capabilities to build up our common forces, and strengthen the bonds of solidarity which we all believe to be our sharpest weapon in confronting the most dangerous current situation for our nation, namely, the persistence of the Palestinian cause without a comprehensive and fair solution that restores to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights according to our Arab view as represented by the resolutions of the Fez Conference.

Prince Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad delivered his speech in the presence of the shaykhs and ministers in addition to a number of guests who participated with the princedom in the inauguration of the 15th regular session of the Advisory Council.

The year 1986 was full of domestic achievements in all fields in the Qatar princedom.

In the industrial field, the Qatar Iron and Steel Company (QASCO) realized new records. The production ratio exceeded that of the past by 123 percent.

QASCO's production covers all the local market needs of reinforcing rods. Most of the surplus is exported to the Cooperation Council States.

The production of urea and ammonia by the Qatar Company for Chemical Fertilizers (QAFCO) exceeded the record for the previous year. Production of ammonia reached 639,634 tons, an increase of 7,834 tons, while the production of urea was 743,847 tons, an increase of 9,847 tons.

Several developments occured in the petrochemicals' international markets since the start of production in the Qatari company which led to a large decline in prices.

Due to the continuation of depressed demand for cement since 1982, its production last year recorded a decline inspite of the measures adopted by the National Qatar Company for Cement Manufacturing to enhance sales.

The agricultural field has undergone an important development represented by the establishment of the veterinary hospital and the diagnostic laboratory in Doha which have started offering their veterinarian services to the herds of livestock in the Doha, al-Gharafah, al-Wakrah, Jamrian al-Batinah, and Umm-Salal regions. The agricultural extension services center in al-Wasat (al-Shahaniyah) was also completed to facilitate agricultural services to agricultural producers in the region. A fountain irrigation system in the north was erected. The first and second phases of the topographic survey project for farms and arable lands were completed. The project of fish farming in Qatari waters was also completed.

The various quantitative and qualitative facets and trends of development in the field of education continued. The development pervaded all aspects of the educational function from the student to the teacher to the building.

The University of Qatar gave a glorious example of the scientific development process. The number of its student body for the year 1985/86 reached 5,057 students of whom 73.38 percent were Qataris.

The future projects for the various colleges include the development of the teachers preparation program in the college of education, and the introduction of higher studies in some of the university departments.

The current year was distinguished, in the social field, by the increase in the number of cooperative and consumption societies. Last year 612 popular houses were distributed in the popular housing sector.

The structural and highway projects have also witnessed noticeable developments through the construction of two schools on the west coast and al-Khawr,

as well as the construction of a fire station in al-Shimal city. It is also projected to construct 14 schools, 30 popular houses, and make modifications and additions to a number of schools in the villages.

The construction of a tunnel in al-Mana'i bedouin community and the protective works for the central island in greater Doha were among the highway projects that were completed last year; besides, a large number of projects pertaining to building highways are being carried out.

In the health field, the number of Qatari cadres increased, the Qatari employee training projects were expanded, and the number of beds in the three hospitals in Doha were increased. A kidney dialysis clinic was also built. Al-Rumaylah hospital was expanded, while the dental clinic wing was remodeled and a new clinic for artificial limbs was built.

The field of transportation and communications witnessed a continuation in the development and expansion of the wireless and cable communication network in the country, as well as in connection with the rest of the world through a developed communication network. The earth station for space communications via the Arab satellite (ARABSAT) was inaugurated. Concerning aerial transport services, the departure hall in Doha International Airport was expanded. Measures were taken to obtain a radar for the airport. A building was constructed for electronic maintenance, standardization of equipment, and for connecting aerial communications in Doha with the regional center for weather forecast in Saudi Arabia.

In the energy generation field, the contract for land and marine survey works for the site of the new electric generation station in al-Wasil was completed. Throughout the country 170 one-armed light poles, 200 two-armed light poles, and 8 three-armed light poles were erected.

12655/12859
CSO: 4404/126

FINANCE MINISTER SAYS NORTH FIELD GAS PROJECT TO BEGIN

Doha DAILY GULF TIMES in English 15 Dec 86 p 3

[Text]

Qatar's Minister for Finance and Petroleum, HE Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Khalifa al-Thani, has said that Qatar is on the "verge" of starting work on the first phase of the development of the North Field gas project to meet domestic requirements of gas in the near future.

The Minister told the Iraqi news agency, in an interview, that during implementation of the first phase consideration would be made regarding utilities that would serve the subsequent phases.

"We are still in the process of assessing the best available alternative from both the technical and marketing sides and in this connection we will keep all options open," he said, replying to a question whether North Field gas would be piped to Europe or liquefied and exported through tankers to other countries.

The Minister said that Qatar had a "very important natural wealth" in gas and oil, and was keen to make the best use of this.

Replying to a question on statistics that indicated the possibility of oil in Qatar being depleted within two decades, HE the Minister pointed that the timing of this depletion was based on several factors, including production level in addition to the firm reserves from new hydrocarbon discoveries.

The minister noted that estimates relying on statistics were usually based on variable assumptions or were absolutely inaccurate.

HE Sheikh Abdulaziz underlined that Qatar's petroleum policy was conservative, and under the directives of HH the Emir and HH the Heir Apparent. Continuous efforts were under-way to increase reserves through additional discoveries of oil and hydrocarbon in general the Minister added.

HE Sheikh Abdulaziz, who will lead Qatar's delegation to the Opec ministerial meeting opening in Geneva tomorrow, expressed his connection that the Opec agreement on output and quotas had consolidated and further enhanced its credibility in the eyes of non-Opec oil producers.

HE the Minister maintained that it was in the interest of non-Opec oil producers to take advantage of the positive trends set forth by Opec's decisions concerning the oil market.

CSO: 4400/99
/9317

DECLINE IN IMPORTS FROM ASIA REPORTED

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 27 Nov 86 p 7

[Text]

Qatar's imports from Asian countries during 1985 amounted to QR 1,157,394,000 representing a 327.9 per cent of Qatar's total imports of that year. The figure represents a decrease of QR 115,340,000 compared to 1984, according to figures published by Qatar Central Statistical Organisation (QCSO).

The QCSO annual statistical book said Japan came on top of the Asian countries exporting products to Qatar worth of QR 754,384,000, about 18.2 per cent of Qatar's total imports. (Japan is also the first among world countries exporting products to Qatar in 1986).

India came second with imports to Qatar worth QR 84,772,000, about 2 per cent of Qatar's total imports. Singapore was next with exports to Qatar worth QR 58,081,000, about 1.4 per cent of Qatar's total imports, Taiwan with QR 39,706,000, South Korea with QR 28,902,000, the statistical book added.

The statistics pointed out that the Qatari imports from the Asian countries were classified as follows:

Foodstuffs and livestock (worth QR 145,070,000), beverages and tobacco (QR 3,068,000), raw materials with the exception of fuels (15,944,000), mineral fuel and lubricants and similar products (3,384,000), chemicals-related products (8,507,000), oil and animal and vegetable fats (24,079,000), manufactured products (249,748,000), machinery and transport equipment (571,081,000), various products (136,058,000) and other unclassified items (453,000).

The statistical book said Qatar's imports from the Asian countries for last year, classified according to the nature of the items imported were as follows: industrial products QR 988,456,000, semi-manufactured items QR 59,723,000.

/9274
CSO: 4400/86

IDTC REPORTS ON SETTING UP LOCAL INDUSTRIES

Doha DAILY GULF TIMES in English 8 Dec 86 pp 1, 16

[Text]

DOHA—A number of industries based on locally-available raw material can be set up in Qatar, according to studies carried out by the Industrial Development Technical Centre (IDTC).

Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Jabor Al Thani, Deputy Director-General of IDTC, said that one such industry was a brick making plant. The IDTC has defined even specifications for the local raw materials which could be used in making bricks.

Preliminary studies have been completed to set up a plant that could produce 500,000 tons of salt a year from sea water. The IDTC, a state-owned institution, carries out studies and encourages public and private sectors to invest in local industrial schemes. Incentives in terms of land, water power and expertise are offered by the IDTC to entrepreneurs.

Shaikh Abdulrahman said the centre had also conducted geological surveys of the Qatari soil. New locations had been found to extract limestone. Exploitation of these sites could help in expanding the cement industry in the country. Limestone has already been found in Umm Al Afai and Umm Bab, where it is used to make cement. Another use is for road laying.

The projects could have spin-off effects. For instance the salt project could also produce, 1,600 tons of liquid bromine which in turn could produce sodium bromide. Besides these the project could produce 100,000 tons of magnesium oxide.

Magnesium oxide is usually thought to be an expensive affair to produce, requiring high inputs of energy. Shaikh Abdulrahman said it could be produced much more economically in the AGCC states. Current prices for a ton of magnesium is £2,690, or QR13,000. The metal is in good demand and is used to produce ingots. A compound with aluminium is used in aircraft industries.

The Gulf water has a range of mineral salts and also contains radioactive material like uranium. Water with a high salt content can be made to yield good quantities of uranium, Shaikh Abdulrahman said.

Exploitation of gypsum ore is also possible in the small and medium scale industries sector, Shaikh Abdulrahman said. This ore has been located in the south-western parts of Qatar.

CSO: 4400/99
/9317

HEALTH MINISTRY LIFTS BAN ON FOODSTUFFS FROM EAST EUROPE, TURKEY

Doha DAILY GULF TIMES in English 10 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

QATAR's Public Health Ministry has lifted the ban on foodstuffs and fodder imports from eastern European countries and Turkey. Health measures applied to imports from West European countries will now be applied to those from the East.

The ban was imposed following the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster in the Soviet Union in April but a ministry spokesman said that if a certificate issued by the Health or Agriculture Ministry of the concerned country is attested by the Qatar embassy or any other Arab Embassy if there is no Qatari Embassy, declaring that the products are radiation free they will now be allowed into Qatar.

The ministry officials concerned will further check all imported dairy products, and fodder from both east and west European countries and Turkey to make sure they are free from radiation.

Food imported without health certificates from such countries via Dubai will be accepted if a similar certificate is issued by the UAE authorities after checking of the products. However these certificates must have a valid attestation from the Qatar Consulate in Dubai.

CSO: 4400/99
/9317

PAPERS QUESTION 'SUSPICIOUS' U.S. AID

JN181256 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Twisted Logic," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today: After all of these large, abominable scandals in the U.S. administration, Arab citizens have the right to ask those Arabs who placed their confidence in the United States and who pinned high hopes on seeking the help of the United States to protect themselves and to stand in the face of Israel and its ambitions: What are the means left for you to justify what has happened and what is the fate of your confidence and hopes?

Experience has proved that all those who consider themselves friends of the United States among Arab ranks are actually worth nothing to Washington as compared to Israel. To confirm this, it is sufficient to remind these Arabs of President Ronald Reagan's position on the Arab delegation which visited Washington carrying the Fes plan--a plan which was issued by an Arab summit on the basis that it would help the United States pressure Israel into accepting it because the plan represents the minimum acceptable level for any political solution in the region. There is also Egypt's experience with Camp David which was a clear obvious example of the extent that may be reached by Arabs who place themselves at the disposal of the U.S. administration.

AL-BA'TH explains that neither the national cause nor economic problems can be solved through U.S. assistance. Nor can people's standard of living be raised by U.S. aid. The contrary is exactly true as proven in the past and present phases. These experiences made Syria, which has always led those who adopted the alternative viewpoints, raise the slogan of establishing strategic parity betwen Syria and Israel. This does not mean that the rest of the Arabs are exempt from the responsibility of the battle with Israel.

The paper concludes: Hence, what will the United States grant pro-U.S. or Americanized Arabs? Nothing, except for Israel. With its plan based on occupying Arab land and usurping Arab rights, Israel is rejected by Arabs and cannot be accepted by the Arab masses. Therefore, differences must emerge between Arabs who adhere to their rights and land and Arabs who want to join the enemies of Arabs through deluded, imbalanced equations; through false,

wrong calculations; and through a twisted logic which was rejected by the masses of our Arab nation long ago.

Under the headline "Washington and the Diplomacy of Suspicious Aid," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: While feeling that U.S. financial and military aid to Israel has become a strategic principle in U.S. policy, especially in the presence of a Congress which has a democratic majority that is more zealous about supporting Israel and strengthening its aggressive weaponry than is the Reagan administration that made U.S.-Israeli relations attaining the level of an almost complete military merger, we note that the Egyptian regime has obtained neither new aid nor facilities to ease payment of the interests on military debts owed to the United States, except after several visits to Washington by senior officials of the Egyptian regime who went in the form of beggars entrusted with offering national concessions in return for crumbs of suspicious U.S. aid. What is the meaning of this at a time when the United States endeavors to impose an economic blockade on Syria through its European allies? It is the economic weapon which is not less serious than military weapons. Moreover, the U.S. stands confirm Washington's complete bias toward Israel, the strategic ally of the United States.

However, this economic weapon is futile in combatting Syria since Syria proved its ability to confront all forms of pressures and threats. Syria is also building its national economy with strength and capability in a manner compatible with the slogan of strategic parity, which is a prominent feature of this phase in the history of Arab-Israeli conflict.

/9599
CSO: 4400/81

BRIEFS

RIF'AT AL-ASAD ASKED TO RETURN--Informed Arab political sources said that a number of Syrian persons abroad received from Damascus "an official request" from high-level authorities, expressing the desire that they return to Syria. These sources confirmed that Dr Rif'at al-Asad, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's brother, who lives in France, is the most important person who received this request. These sources explained the Syrian steps towards these politicians who have been "sent away" aim to consolidate internal strength to confront the political repercussions of the European boycott measures against Syria. The sources spoke of an economic crisis which has begun to appear in Syria. This crisis can be seen in the disappearance of a number of commodities and basic supplies from the market. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad referred to the existence of this sort of crisis in his speech on the anniversary of his coming into power, made on Saturday, 15 November 1986. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 29 Nov 86 p 7] /9365

CSO: 4404/145

ECONOMIC COOPERATION DISCUSSED WITH EGYPT, PAKISTAN, ITALY

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 19 Nov 86 p 15

[Dispatch by GNA from Abu Dhabi: "Egyptian, Pakistani, and Italian Economic Delegations in the Emirates to Discuss Foreign Investment Opportunities"]

[Text] Three economic delegations from Egypt, Pakistan, and Italy are currently in the Emirates for a series of talks with high officials of the economic sectors and the chambers of commerce and industry to discuss foreign investment opportunities in their countries and means for increasing trade with the UAE.

An industrial and economic delegation of representatives of 20 Egyptian industrial public sector companies met with Sayf al-Jarwan, UAE minister of economy and trade, and gave him detailed accounts of Egypt's industrial production and explained means of developing trade between Egypt and the UAE.

The delegation held similar talks with Sa'id Ahmad al-'Utaybah, president of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and acquainted him with current investment laws in Egypt and the wide margins allowed Arab investors.

Ahmad Kamal, head of the Egyptian delegation, said that a study is now underway to combine all investment laws in Egypt into one legislation that would be drafted by December. He pointed out that there is complete tax exemption for all investment within free trade zones and tax holidays for projects carried out inside Egypt itself.

The delegation expressed Egypt's readiness to import UAE produced goods such as cement, dyes, flour, and plastic tubing.

The president of the Abu Dhabi chamber of commerce and industry emphasized that the UAE is keen on bolstering trade exchanges among the Arab countries in the interest of Arab citizens and Arab economies.

A similar economic and industrial delegation from Pakistan held two separate meetings with officials of the chambers of commerce in Dubai and al-Shariqah.

Headed by Muhammad Yunis, minister of state for Pakistani industries, the delegation reviewed for officials of the two chambers Pakistani industrial products suitable for joint ventures with the UAE such as pipes, mineral products, construction materials, textiles, chemicals, transportation, and agriculture.

The Palistani delegation discussed a plan by its government to open the door to foreign investment and enter into joint investment ventures with other states, benefiting from a new banking system and the free zone facilities at Lahore and Karachi ports. It also pointed out the many opportunities for real estate investment in Pakistan such as land ownership, hotel construction, and private housing.

Officials of the two chambers requested specific information and studies on investment in Pakistan after pointing out that UAE imports from Pakistan via Dubai, mostly in foods and livestock increased from 150 million dirhams in 1978 to 474 million dirhams in 1984 then decreased to 221 million dirhams in 1984 and to only 200 million dirhams in 1986.

12945/9190
CSO: 4404/127

MAJLIS DEPUTIES REPRIMANDED BY KHOMEYNI ON MCFARLANE'S VISIT

London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Nov 86 p 3

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Finally the uproar and hullabaloo of clandestine delivery of American arms to the Islamic Republic and talks between the officials of the Islamic government and U.S. emissaries was dragged to the open session of the Majlis. A small group called Resalat [Mission] under the leadership of Ayatollah Azari Qomi exposed to discussion the issue of secret contact with the U.S. emissaries from Ali Akbar Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs.

Azari Qomi has asked the foreign minister to show up at Majlis and explain how a high-ranking U.S. delegation came to Iran? And with whom did they establish contact and at what level were the talks conducted and what results were achieved! Furthermore, these deputies have asked the foreign minister: If the Foreign Ministry was delegated to conduct the contacts, then how were others involved?

Here the reference was to Hashemi Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Consultative Assembly who after the disclosure of the matter by the Lebanese pro-Syrian newspaper, was obliged to confess the delivery of plane loads of U.S. arms and the arrival of Reagan's emissaries in Tehran.

Here it should be noted that last Thursday in a speech to the above-stated group, Khomeyni while criticizing them, said: Your tone of questioning in the Majlis is even harsher than the Israelis or the White House. Ayatollah Khomeyni accused this group of discord and disunity.

It is foreseen that after Khomeyni's sterm criticism, Majlis deputies will desist from pursuing the matter at the open session of the House of Representatives.

Hojjatollah Rafsanjani stated: Some of the deputies have asked me to inform the imam that what has happened does not pertain to the majority of the representatives and went on to add that when the imam recognizes there is reason to believe that the unity of society is going to be harmed, he will intervene.

Therefore as it was predicted, the question of a minority group of Majlis deputies called Resalat [Mission] from the foreign minister was withdrawn and thus there was no more any talk about it.

This 8-member group of Majlis deputies asked Velayati, the foreign minister who had allowed the U.S. emissaries to enter Iran, with whom did they establish contact and what was the result of these negotiations?

In a speech in commemoration of the birth of the Prophet, Khomeyni pointed to the profound difference between the high-ranking officials of the Islamic regime regarding the issue of relations with the United States and severely attacked the pro-American individuals calling them Western-stricken and even Satan-smitten.

Khomeyni who was speaking to war-victimized families, and a group of the guardians and the Mobilization Corps members, attacked U.S. administration and said: This is a tremendous explosion which has occurred at the Black House in Washington and it is a great scandal for the leaders of the United States. As you have noticed, the United States is making every effort, both at home and abroad to cover up this great scandal which has disgraced the U.S. president; in truth the president should go into mourning over this scandal and the White House be renamed as the Black House, which has always proved to be. At any rate, this disquietude, agitation and disunity in the White House bespeaks of the immensity of the issue.

Ayatollah Khomeyni added: According to their version of the story a high-ranking American entered Iran with a false passport and Iran had no idea who the guy is. As soon as it was discovered that this man was an American official, our officials had him kept under surveillance and put his under house arrest, watching his every move. They did not allow him to meet with the people he had so desired. Thereafter, this man stated that if he had gone to the Soviet Union, the president of that country would have visited him three times by then. I guess he dis not know that he was not in the Soviet Union, that he was in an Islamic country and a nation of God's Prophet. This is a country of Imam Sadeq and here our guardians are more respected than the occupiers of the White House and the like, here our mobilization corps people are more honored than all the rest of the world's White Houses.

Ayatollah Khomeyni called this incident one of the greatest victories and added: Those people who used to say they were going to do this and that and cut off their relations with us, now they've come back imploring in front of this nation and would like to establish relations. They are seeking an excuse to apologize and our nation accept it--this is an issue which is far greater than any other victory for you. The president of the United States with all his power and clout sends one of his high-ranking officials to see our officials, but no one wants to meet with him. This is a great issue which has had repercussions throughout the world and indeed it so deserves, and it has really caused the White House great grief. Another significant issue is that all the great countries are trying to beat one another in establishing relations with Iran. What do you think it is? This is mainly for the Iranian people who are wide awake today and because Islam is predominant in our country today.

Thereafter, Khomeyni disclosed the rift in the system of the government of the Islamic Republic as regards its relations with the United States and also revealed that some of the Majlis deputies in their speech and other groups through distribution of public notices have criticized the recent contacts and added: Those people who live in Iran [Iranian nation as a whole] rarely pay any attention to these issues but those individuals who are aligned with the foreigners are following their examples and using the same kind of language and tone to publicize the issue.

How some of these people are backward and behind! Why should we for the mere reason of some personal grudge lose the initiative and at a time when as a result of Iran's heedlessness toward the White or Black House the whole world has been shaken try to explain their issue? Why should we be so West-stricken or Satan-smitten? I never expected some of these people [the deputies] to scream at our responsible officials while they should be yelling and bawling out the United States! What is the reason? Why are you trying to create discord among our leaders? Where do you think you're heading? Your tone of voice in what has transpired in the Majlis is even harsher than both Israel and the occupiers of the White House. What has happened to you? You were not like that at all!

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CSO: 4640/27

MADANI REFUTES 'CHARGES' ASCRIBED TO HIM BY U.S. MEDIA

London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Nov 86 p 11

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Dr Madani, whose name has been mentioned in the WASHINGTON POST in connection with some statements, in a contact with KEYHAN stated: This is not the first time that they have published such reports and claimed to disclose some issues. As a matter of fact, the same thing happened in 1982. Now this matter was first reported by the WASHINGTON POST and other newspapers followed suit while it was reflected previously in the NEW YORK TIMES and then appeared in the European and other newspapers.

At that time the NEW YORK TIMES wrote that I received millions of dollars in assistance and added: Right now Madani has 8,000-strong troops ready in Turkey who intend to enter Iran. This monstrous lie and report which appeared in the NEW YORK TIMES on March 7, 1982 was also repeated by all the newpapers and radio stations and even Moscow Radio and those of the Islamic Republic also reported it--while I didn't even have 8,000 ants in Turkey. The fact is that my battle has never meant to be an armed struggle. I've repeated the same thing since the first day I left Iran and began my struggle for the freedom of my country. Therefore, you can see that I have neither had any organization nor an army or troops and naturally I would not need a million-dollar budget either.

Madani further added that once they wrote about this matter for specific reasons, but now it is for other issues as well--the issues which are being talked about everywhere.

Toppling of the Regime not Possible From Outside

Dr Madani said: From the very first days that I left Iran I have been telling all the officials who came to see me or that I called on, that the toppling of the regime and an armed uprising from outside is not possible. Whatever we do has to be done from inside. And that also has to be done with the help of an invigorated national and moderate force. Of course this is a world of relations and communications while we should not wait for others to give us the green light to liberate our country, at the same time we must not consider ourselves independent from other nations' cooperation.

From the very beginning I've tried to relay the Iranian nation's message to the U.S. or Western European officials and even to the Eastern bloc countries. I've

tried to ask their assistance and cooperation in helping us to liberate our country from tyranny and suppression unconditionally. And as is evident, any struggle in the world needs some moral and material support.

Thereafter, Dr Madani pointed to his meeting with three U.S. officials in September 1980 and said: Among the people who came to see me also were three Americans who told me they were the emissaries of the U.S. president. I welcomed their visit since it was a good opportunity for me to relate my views to the U.S. officials. At that time I told them that only the national moderate groups would be able to rescue Iran and they need to be restrengthened. Now, after several years, the United States has reached the same results. But they have resorted to the moderates of the Islamic Republic who are not moderate in the true sense of the word and need to become a bit milder.

Dr Madani further said: At that time we had an office in Germany where in addition to other things we used to help Iranian refugees who had escaped the Islamic Republic and introduced them to other countries where they sought asylum. The United States was supposed to provide aid to that office and we said that in return we would not be obligated to any conditions.

They provided some assistance to that office and all the relevant records are there to be shown to the Iranian nation at an appropriate time. That money was not put in my account--since I don't have a bank account and will never have--and besides I am not involved in that kind of affair any way. This aid continued until the middle of 1980.

During later meetings with the U.S. representatives I noticed that they were trying to impose certain views on us, but I stood firm and on one occasion the situation forced me to expel three of these emissaries from my office. Some of my friends and colleagues who were working with me in that office later reprimanded me and asked why I acted so distemperedly. However at the time I did not tell them that no one can impose or dictate his view on me. I will knuckle under to nobody and will not reconcile in politics.

What is the Purpose for Printing the Whoppers?

Dr Madani further stated: As of 1981 my connection with the office of the president was cut off. On March 7, 1982 the NEW YORK TIMES and thereafter other newspapers wrote that I received millions of dollars in aid and that I had 8000-strong troops in Turkey at the ready. At that time I had an interview with the LONDON TIMES and I asked them what was the purpose for printing such consummate lies by all the newspapers? They told me that such gimmicks and subterfuges had always been around and they will continue to do so. That time it was the NEW YORK TIMES which first wrote the news; not it is the WASHINGTON POST--a story which was written more than six years ago. Others have many underhanded wheelings and dealings and are constantly talking about their struggles with the West and the East and no one mentions it.

Dr Madani added: At least this time they wrote that I have stood firm against their demands. Notwithstanding, I have to say that as long as I'm alive and so long as we've not laid the foundation of a strong national and moderate system, I will not sit still and this kind of subterfuge will not do me in.

As regards the purpose for printing this kind of report and its reflection/reverberation in the U.S. or European mass media Dr Madani believes that they have been trying to bribe the Islamic Republic. What they intend to do is to bear down upon the opposition in order to strengthen the regime. However, this was all to the disadvantage of the moderate groups in Iran since the Islamic Republic gains all the credits and publicity it needs by the mottos and actions of the opponents. After the disclosure of their recent relations and becoming ever so disgraced in the public view, they will have to gravitate towards the Soviet Union and as a result use harsher tones in their slogans. If we put aside these short-lived gimmicks, in the long run the moderates will have to bear the blame of the secret relations.

Unfortunately, perhaps U.S. officials are not well aware of the consequences of their actions. Iran is not like Afghanistan. Iran means the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, Africa. Whichever way Iran gravitates, it will likewise affect the balance of power in the world in that direction. The best policy for Iran is one of neutrality. And our moderates and national right-wingers had a chance to bring about such a system in our country and ensure the stability of the Middle Ease and the world. But it should be noted that a moderate is a person whose deed reveals his intention. And a system of government which lies to its people and prompts the motto: "Neither the East nor the West," but at the same time carries on relations with both sides cannot be the founder of the policy described above.

Regarding the delivery of American arms to Iran, Dr Madani said: I will never condemn the delivery of arms. If Iraq can get its needed arms from wherever it likes, why not Iran? It is six years now that the Iranian army is engaged in the war and it needs to get its arms from somewhere. The thing is I've several times said that the sale of arms to both countries should be discontinued since this war will bring nothing for either side of the conflict except bitter failure and defeat while at the same time it will bring victory for imperialism!

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CSO: 4640/28

ISRAEL SAID TO BE 'ARCHITECT OF DEAL' WITH U.S.

London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Nov 86 p 16

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] It was announced in the United States that White House representatives with the encouragement and suggestion of Israeli officials won Reagan's consent to directly enter into negotiation with the Tehran regime in order to discuss and arrange for the release of the American hostages in Lebanon.

The first contact of Mr McFarlane with the representatives of the Islamic Republic took place with the intercession of the director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry in London, and two Israeli merchants from Tehran were also present at this meeting and conducted the continuation of the negotiations in Tehran.

The American officials have revealed that the Israeli authorities told them that the only way to obtain the release of the American hostages was to carry secret transactions with Tehran and provide the regime with the needed spare parts and arms.

Recently the Israeli officials disclosed that after Mr Chirac took office, secret talks were begun between France, Syria and the Islamic Republic and it is believed that all the French hostages would be released soon. At a time when the American hostages are still in captivity in Lebanon such revelations would only help to undercut U.S. prestige.

All McFarlane's trips to Tehran and the secret negotiations conducted by him and his colleagues with the top-ranking officials of the Islamic regime were also attended by Israeli merchants. The Israelis had been assured that until the attainment of the final results these negotiations would remain secret, however the vigilance of the political rivals within the Islamic Republic and disclosure of McFarlane's trips caused this program to face failure.

Israeli officials believe that Syria is the main culprit for disclosing these negotiations and the interesting point which is being talked about in Washington and London is that of the intervention of one of the former political officials of the regime. A few weeks ago, for the first time Mr Bani Sadr, former president of the regime, disclosed this matter; however, later reports indicate that 12 high-ranking officials of the Islamic regime had taken part in these

negotiations which were conducted in Tehran, London and Washington.

The U.S. officials while pointing to Israel's direct participation, refuse to disclose the details of the talks and the names of the individuals with whom they carried out these negotiations. They have told the U.S. Senate Investigation Commission that any disclosure of details of such negotiations could endanger future relations between the United States and Iran.

Direct Israeli mediation and its encouragement for the continuation of these talks between Iran and the United States has strongly aroused the abomination of the opponents of the Islamic Republic abroad. One of the Iranian exiles stated: When for the first time the subject of the delivery of military equipment to the Islamic Republic was disclosed by Israel, Israeli officials including Ariel Sharon who was in Washington on an official trip, claimed that Israel's action was only intended to strengthen the Iranian army since the army is the only organ which can secure the future independence of Iran; however Israel's later actions and particularly the new revelations regarding the negotiations indicate that Israel's sole objective was not to strengthen Iranian military position against Iraq--which is a proven enemy of Israel--but that the Israelis encouraged U.S. officials to establish relations with the Islamic Republic as soon as possible.

The Iranian exiles who have confirmed the past policy of the Iranian regime concerning "Israel's right to exist," are somehow surprised at Israel's action which has been intended to weaken Iraq's position and create confusion among other Arab nations since they believe that the very existence of the Islamic Republic and its continuation in itself would be a threat to the region and Israel as well.

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CSO: 4640/26

OPPOSITION PAPER COMMENTS ON BANI-SADR'S REVELATIONS

London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Nov 86 p 16

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, first president of the Islamic Republic claims that the secret contacts between the Islamic Republic and the United States began in November 1984. It is quoted that Bani-Sadr stated: It was the Islamic Republic and especially Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani who was interested in conducting secret negotiations with the United States. Fear of a defeat in the war with Iraq caused the Islamic Republic's officials to resort to the United States and seek a remedy for their problems from Washington, and since Iran is of vital importance to the West, the United States welcomed the suggestion of the Islamic Republic.

There are a lot of rumors going around regarding recent weeks' revelations by Bani-Sadr. For instance, it is said that a group of conservative clerics in Tehran who are not too happy with Rafsanjani, support Bani-Sadr. They argue that Bani-Sadr is both more moderate and more familiar with the issues. The problem facing Bani-Sadr now, at least from the standpoint of the conservative group of the regime, is that the imam does not want to do anything with Bani-Sadr and of course with the death of Khomeyni this problem will be resolved.

There is no doubt that the roots of Bani-Sadr's revelations ought to be sought within the Islamic regime. However, the possibility that Hashemi Rafsanjani and other opponents of Bani-Sadr will ever allow him to return to Iran is very weak. Some time ago the editorial page editor of Tehran's ETTELA'AT in an article presented Bani-Sadr to the government and nation of France!

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CSO: 4640/26

KHOMEYNI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HAFIZ AL-ASAD DISCUSSED

London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Nov 86 p 16

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] One week after the trip of Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs to Syria, a delegation headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Janati, member of the Guardians Council, went to Damascus and held negotiations with Syrian officials.

If during the previous past weeks one could link the constant trips of the top-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic to Syria to the open and covert conflicts and hostilities in Lebanon, the last trip of the Islamic Republic delegation most certainly had nothing to do with this matter.

It is a few weeks now that Syria is making every effort to put the Iranian ruling body in a situation to first desist from staging a desting-making offensive to Iraq and second, accept a solution recommended by Damascus. What is the proposed Syrian government's solution?

Syria is interested in persuading Iran to put an end to the war with Iraq and it promises that if Iran agrees to this proposal, all the Arab countries of the region will bring about an arrangement so that Saddam Hoseyn would step aside from ruling Iraq's government! Apparently the moderate officials of the Islamic Republic have agreed to this arrangement, however in case such an agreement becomes a reality they would not like to see Syria cut off from their foothold in Lebanon and thus bring shame and disrepute on the Islamic Republic in the eyes of the Lebanese Hezbollahis. There is no doubt that the Islamic Republic would like to continue its activities in Lebanon and as before it insists on exporting a revolution to that country. This is an irrevocable wish of Khomeyni and all the agreements between Rafsanjani and Mohtashemi with the Syrian officials could not bring about a change in it. As a matter of fact, the presence of Sheykh Hassan Ebrahimi, member of Khomeyni's office in Syria, was necessary to drive home this principle to the Syrian officials. What Khomeyni expects from Damascus is to find a solution to bring an end to the war between Iran and Iraq so as no to disgrace his theocratic rule.

12719
CSO: 4640/26

YAMANI DISMISSAL VIEWED BY 'PROMINENT OIL-EXPERT'

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Nov 86 pp 3, 14

[Text] Madrid--IRNA: Antonie Simpson, regarded as one of the prominent oil-experts, explained in a report the deciding factors for the dismissal of Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister and the new Saudi strategy regarding oil prices.

In this report there is a mention about the role of Zaki Yamani in protecting the interests of the West by keeping down the price of oil on the world market and then an explanation about the causes for his dismissal which states: The elimination of Yamani in fact is part of the Saudi Arabian strategy--of which the price of oil is one of the factors. From the viewpoint of Saudi Arabia another significant change pertains to Iran, since Iran, which is the most powerful authority [state] of the region, is considered to be a threat for the Saudi Arabia and Kuwait which both have Shiite populations who are proponents of the Iranian regime.

The aforementioned report while pointing to the fact that the picture of a superior Iran is going to be worrisome to Washington, it further adds: Not only can the Iranians by putting pressure on the Iraqis, Kuwaitis and the Saudi Arabians keep the oil prices at a higher level, but they can seriously weaken the political influence of the West throughout the entire region.

The writer of the report goes on to add: Fahd, king of Saudi Arabia who has never been a powerful ruler, as a result of the Iranian threat is more worried and it is for this reason that he seeks various ways to maintain cordial relations with Iran.

Citing the role of Iran and that of Saudi Arabia in determining the world oil price, Simpson writes: Right now, with the help of Iran the Saudi king hopes to strengthen OPEC's position since on the one hand, an increase in the price of oil will help improve the economic situation of Saudi Arabia and on the other it will fulfill Iran'a wishes. The relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia with regard to strengthening of OPEC and stabilizing the price of oil have always been half-and-half [sketchy]. Whenever both countries distanced themselves from each other, like in 1960s the price of oil dropped and whenever they came together like 1973 to 1979 the prices went up. Now, despite all the religious and political differences, the two countries are becoming united in view of the reason cited above.

The above-stated report while mentioning that Zaki Yamani has endured harsh attacks by the Iranians, goes on to point to the effects of an oil price decrease throughout the countries of the region and adds: Many of the pro-Western individuals who favor a cheaper price for oil had rationalized that as a result of price decreases Iran's revenues would be reduced and similarly its war worthiness would be weakened against Iraq; however, this matter in fact has helped to disappoint Iran's enemies, such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

At the end of this report which was printed in the Spanish newspaper "El Pais," it is also stated: Very soon or when the bridge between the Middle East and the West becomes more unsafe, the reality of the historical significance of Yamani will be known.

OPEC from the Viewpoint of "ASHARQ AL-ASWAT"

Tehran--IRNA: ASHARQ AL-ASWAT of Jeddah in its Saturday issue wrote: There is some doubt in the horizon for an increase in the price of oil to the level of $18 per barrel as wished by the OPEC.

According to German's News Agency in Jeddah, OPEC-member countries will re-evaluate their programs based on the current oil market situation in a fashion that can be more reliable for the next five years.

The aforementioned paper also writes: This is a harsh truth and if we try to deny it there is the possibility of even worst results--at a time when all OPEC-member nations without further expectations are ready to accept more drastic control on their expenditures and endure the hardship of economic austerity policies.

The paper goes on to write: We have no short-term solution except solidarity and patience. And it further warned that, otherwise the component parts of OPEC might fall apart and cause the disintegration of this organization.

According to the interpretation of some observers, the ministerial session of last month in Geneva made this point clear to the OPEC-member governments that the arrangement of a production quota of the organization is not so important for the oil market--although the members in their negotiations will seek to attain one. Of course this matter can be construed as that the OPEC's problems and difficulties toward reaching a universal agreement and resolving the differences is on the increase--a subject which has been mentioned in the detailed reports and declarations of the Saudi Arabia about the tendencies of that country's oil policies.

Saudi Arabia after the dismissal of Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the former oil minister of that country demanded the formation of an urgent meeting for reaching an agreement with regard to the increase of oil price from the present $14 or $15 to $18 for a barrel. Recently, the four Arab countries which are members of OPEC in an apparent effort to limit the request of an oil increase, met together, but they did not issue a communique in this regard.

Fahd's Stress on Oil Price Increase

Tehran--CENTRAL NEWS UNIT: Al-Sha'ir, minister of information of Saudi Arabia announced in Riyadh today that Fahd, king of Saudi Arabia, has strongly supported that country's request for an increase of oil price to $18-a-barrel.

As reported by REUTER, Al-Sha'ir stated: At the regular cabinet session, with regard to that country's obligation to OPEC's decisions concerning the production quota until the end of 1986 and the continual effort of Riyadh for the increase of oil price to $18-a-barrel, as the first step Fahd emphatically supported the decision.

According to this report, this is the first time that Fahd, king of Saudi Arabia has expressed his view on the oil issue eleven days after the dismissal of Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum. Oil-experts say that Saudi Arabia has insisted on an oil price increase from the day of Zaki Yamani's discharge.

UAE's Press Support of Oil Price Increase

Tehran--IRNA: Two UA 's newpapers in their yesterday's issue [Monday] while warning OPEC-member nations regarding production decrease for the purpose of increasing oil prices, also asked those countries to correct their present policies with a unified strategy.

According to GULF NEWS AGENCY from Abu Dhabi, AL-BAYAN in a section of yesterday's editorial wrote: The addition of 3.5 million barrels of oil per day to the already glutted consumption needs of the world oil market prevents an increase in the price of this commodity, and that every effort which is made to increase its price to an $18-or $20-a-barrel would have to be geared to a decrease in production. Also AL-WAHDAH in an article about the issue of oil production decrease and price increases, has praised the recent move of the Gulf Cooperation Council-member nations with regard to the pricing issue.

The latter paper has asked OPEC-member countries to participate in the Price Fixing Committee meeting which is to be held in Ecuador, so as to be able to review the necessary predictions for the stabilization of the oil price.

North Sea Oil Price Decrease

Tehran--IRNA: Yesterday morning [Monday], once more the price of North Sea crude oil on the international market dropped 20 cents a barrel [from $14.70-a-barrel to $14.50-a-barrel]--for delivery in the month of December.

According to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE from London, based on the statements made by oil industry experts and middlemen, in expectation of the Price Fixing Committee's meeting which is about to be held during the current week in Ecuador, oil market has experienced drastic fluctuations.

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CSO: 4640/25

BRIEFS

COMMUNISTS OPPOSE GURKHALAND MOVEMENT--New Delhi, Dec. 12--A joint plenum of the two Communist parties of Nepal, led by Mr Balaram Upadhaya and Mr Manmohan Adhikari, held in Katmandu recently, declared that the "so-called Gurkhaland movement in Darjeeling by some reactionary and secessionist forces should be condemned". The plenum was satisfied with the stand taken by the Left Front Government in West Bengal, on the recognition of the Nepali language and citizenship rights, protection of the property of Nepalese and impartiality in their employment. The plenum declared that the GNLF movement was against the interest of about 3.5 million Nepalese residing in other parts of India. The session also condemned "the baseless propaganda spread in this connection by the Government of Nepal through some terrorists, and cautioned the Nepalese to be alert against it." A "press statement" on the proceedings of the plenum released here today, under the signature of Mr Upadhaya did not elaborate what the "baseless propaganda" is that is being spread by the Government of Nepal. The "press statement" bore a Varanasi dateline and said that the plenum had been held at Katmandu on November 5, 6 and 7. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Dec 86 p 1 BK] /6662

INDIAN BANDITS 'CREATE HAVOC'--Katmandu, Dec 28 (AFP)--A rash of cross-border raids by Indian bandits has created havoc in southern Nepal, a police source said here Sunday. Only on Friday a dozen bandits seriously wounded a Nepalese and escaped with 15,000 rupees-worth (680 dollars-worth) of loot in a raid on a house at Rangeli, 290 kilometres (180 miles) southeast of here, the source said. They used explosives to sow panic as they attacked the house of Satya Narayan Agrawal, gravely injuring him. Mr Agrawal was taken to the hospital. The source said Indian bandits could easily cross the open, 1,040-kilometre (650-mile) Indo-Nepalese border to rob businessmen and landowners. On Friday the police arrested Nahendra Yadav of Gorakhpur in India and charged him with committing a 159,270-rupee (7,272-dollar) payroll robbery. Mr Yadav was arrested shortly after allegedly snatching the cash from an accountant who had drawn the money from the bank to pay the salaries of government employees in Kailadi District, 380 kilometres (238 miles) southwest of here, the source said. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 28 Dec 86 BK] /6662

OMAN ENVOY--Mr Ahmad Yusaf ibn al-Harithi has been appointed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Oman to the Kingdom of Nepal according to the Foreign Ministry. Mr Ahmad Yusaf ibn al-Harithi will reside in New Delhi, India. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 12 Dec 86 p 1 BK]/6662

AMBASSADOR TO ROK--Royal Nepalese Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Narayan Prasad Arjel presented his credentials to President Chon Tu-hwan, Tuesday, it is learnt from the Foreign Ministry. Mr Arjel is resident Royal Nepalese envoy to Japan. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 10 Dec 86 p 1 BK] /6662

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BAN ON PARTIES BASED ON REGIONALISM, FACTIONALISM URGED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Nov 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Banning Regional Organizations"]

[Text] We have learned that the government has decided to carry out a survey of all regional political parties and organizations in the country by use of a special committee to be established at the federal level in the near future. Political parties and organizations that are actively spreading regional and provincial hatred will be banned.

Organizations established on the basis of regional factionalism and race have hurt the unity of our nation, and the effects of their tirades have been felt all over the country for a long time. Various unsavory incidents around the country have been the result of these prejudiced groups' activities. Patriotic elements in the country have long demanded that organizations established on the basis of race, region, or faction be banned. These organizations do not believe in equal treatment for the four provinces and they spread a negative attitude about the country and the government. Now that our government has become aware of this fact, it should not waste its time in investigation and review of recommendations. It is imperative that concrete steps be taken to ban such organizations. In this context, the process of registration of political parties should include the requirement that a specific number of votes be received from people ranging from the village to the provincial level. Any party that does not meet this requirement should not be registered, and the registration of already registered parties should be revoked. This would discourage regionalism among political parties. They would not dare to spread negative propaganda about other groups in the future. We cannot guarantee national unity without eradicating regional hatred and provincial prejudice.

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INDIA'S MILITARY EXERCISE SEEN AS THREAT TO PAKISTAN

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Nov 86 p 3

[Editorial: "In Regard to India's Preparedness for War"]

[Text] Natwar Singh, India's minister for foreign affairs, has assured the Rajya Sabha that India is seriously considering production of nuclear weapons. These weapons, he has said, will be manufactured whenever the situation demands.

He considers Pakistan's atomic program an international problem, rather than the mutual problem of the two countries. We have seen evidence of India's obsession with the desire to emerge as the greatest military power in South Asia. It is spending all its energy in realizing this dream. Pakistan and all other small South Asian countries are aware of India's designs. Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and other neighboring countries look at India with apprehension. They worry whenever India shows an interest in their internal affairs. In order to realize its ambition, India is willing to take any risk, including gambling on the peace and security of this geographic region and breaking international laws. Pakistan heads India's list of enemies because it has refused to bow to India's wishes, had the temerity to continuously oppose India's various activities, and refused to change its own policies just to accommodate Indian designs. In order to vanquish Pakistan, India launched full-scale wars against it in 1965 and 1971. The latter cost Pakistan its eastern wing. India, however, failed to make Pakistan bow to its imperialist designs. India's rulers are so obsessed with the desire to make India undefeatable and a mini superpower in the region that they are using all their resources in making weapons and preparations for war, instead of working on eradicating poverty and the embarrassing backwardness of the Indian people. In order to divert international attention from its murderous designs on the peace of this region, it has started interfering in the internal affairs of neighboring countries and spreading baseless propaganda against them. India has the approval of both the United States and the Soviet Union, so no country opposes it. India has managed to expand its atomic program despite strict monitoring by the superpowers and countries in their sphere of influence. The United States and the Soviet Union have never put any pressure on India. Both of these superpowers and their "follower" countries just look the other way whenever India breaks rules. India has always managed to get cooperation from Western countries to develop its atomic program. It carried out an atomic

blast in 1974; it has 6 atomic reactors in full operation, and it has completed plans to build 27 more atomic reactors. According to an investigative report published in the NEW YORK TIMES, India has several atomic power plants, many of which do not conform to the guidelines issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

According to this report, India will be able to make 60 atomic bombs annually by 1990. The diplomatic statement made by Natwar Singh confirms this report. All these efforts by India are not aimed at the peaceful use of atomic energy. A look at India's past history shows that it attacked China in 1962 and Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 just to test its military prowess. As in the past, India's rulers are trying to instill a desire for war in the masses as well as in its armed forces. India has taken some steps on Pakistan's border, demonstrating its designs to start a war. India offended Pakistan by taking over Siachin Glacier about 1 and 1/2 years ago, and now it is carrying our military exercises in Rajasthan. The F-16 planes acquired by Pakistan have become a target of India's propaganda. The balance of power tips in India's favor. It has five times the area and resources that Pakistan possesses; India has more tanks, planes, and other military equipment. India's accusations that Pakistan is creating an "unsavory" atmosphere in the region, while understandable, are depressing. Pakistan should be prepared to defend itself against any aggression, but we do not see anything being done in this direction. Our government is spending all its energy in convincing people that our atomic program is for peaceful purposes and that India is a stronger military power than Pakistan. We have limited our efforts to counter an Indian atomic blast to exploding "color grass." There is no doubt that Pakistan wants to keep this region safe from the dangers of traditional or atomic warfare, as it wants to use all its resources for providing the basic needs of the people. It has proposed a ban on nuclear weapons in South Asia. We have not seen any positive result from these efforts. Instead, our atomic program for peaceful purposes such as medicine, agriculture, and industry has become a favorite target of India's negative propaganda. The United States, Canada, and France have threatened to reduce economic and technical assistance to Pakistan because of this negative propaganda. The Soviet Union, in order to show its friendship with India, has expressed its anger over Pakistan's atomic program. Under these circumstances it is almost impossible for Pakistan even to talk about atomic bombs. We are very confused. Instead of rebutting the propaganda spread by our friends and enemies, we just apologize to everyone.

Without delay we must take concerted, effective steps to inform the international brotherhood that we are following international rules and regulations while building our military power, and we must make known India's preparations to destroy the peace in this region. We should not fall prey to fears and doubts and ask why there is a dichotomy in the international conscience with regard to evaluating the atomic programs in India and Pakistan. If we do not want to compete with India in the nuclear arms race, at least we have the right to inform the world about India's war mentality and to counter the negative propaganda it is carrying out. We should exercise this right vigorously. We are against aggression, but we cannot afford to ignore the defense needs of our country. We must remember that as long as we are dependent on other countries for economic or other necessities and do not adopt a policy of solving our country's problems with our own resources, the United States and the Soviet Union will continue to apply open threats or secret pressure to get us to accept India's supremacy, and India will continue to endanger our national security. India's announcement about making atomic weapons clearly indicates that it does not expect or care about international pressure in this area. Therefore, we must be extra careful.

COUNTRY SAID 'ARENA' FOR OTHER NATIONS' BATTLES

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 27 Nov 86 p 7

[Text]

THE CLASH of two factions of Sikh pilgrims at Nankana Sahib last week invites urgent and serious attention to the strange phenomenon of Pakistan having become an expanding arena for all sorts of alien conflicts with which it has no concern.

Not for the first time, young Khalistani militants, with little religious interest in any pilgrimage to Sikh shrines in Pakistan, have used the occasion to create trouble. At least twice in two years they have attacked Indian diplomats attending on the Sikh pilgrims from India or have otherwise caused a disturbance by shouting provocative slogans during what are meant to be purely religious ceremonials. Pakistan's generous policy of allowing Sikhs access to their shrines is commendable, but this hospitality places a certain responsibility on the visitors. If some of Pakistan's Sikh guests are incapable of realizing that their behaviour in this country should be governed by an acceptable code, the local authorities must take stern action against all mischief-makers in order to ensure that the pilgrimages are not misused either for creating problems inside Pakistan or to adversely affect its relations with neighbouring States. On the present occasion, the Punjab Government had acted correctly in detaining a certain number of Sikhs who were known to be intent on mischief, but it is extremely odd that these individuals somehow succeeded in making their way to Nankana Sahib and remained undetected until they had staged a fracas once again.

Other conflicts

Apart from Sikh trouble-makers, there have been cases of Baluch visitors who have not hesitated to carry on their own factional fights and pursue their vendettas on Pakistani soil. And our many Afghan guests are responsible for frequent turmoil either as continuation of their civil war or the usual tribal clashes, which have been boosted by the influx of arms into the region in American support of the rebellion against the Kabul regime. All this is in addition to the financial, economic and social strains caused by the Afghan presence. The situation is likely to worsen with the establishment of more refugee camps in the Punjab.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of any tussle among the peoples living in our neighbourhood, Pakistan's first duty is to ensure its own security and safeguard the lives and livelihood of its people. Therefore, its policy must prevent all visitors – whether they come as pilgrims, tourists or refugees – from fighting their battles on Pakistan's territory.

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CSO: 4600/90

BAN ON STUDIES IN USSR DENOUNCED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 11 Dec 86 p 7

[Text]

MISGUIDED puritanism and worse motivation have added yet another hurdle to decelerate the spread of education in our land by making more stringent the ban on students taking advantage of free scholarships allocated to Pakistan by the USSR and other friendly Socialist States.

The excuse given for the harsh and senseless restriction is that education in these countries is un-Islamic and that the students are likely to be "brainwashed and derailed ideologically." The fact is that all over the world education, except in seminaries, is non-religious, hence not Islamic. Yet our students are allowed, in fact encouraged by easy grant of facilities, to study in Western universities and colleges. Most of them go without scholarships and spend something like Rs. 200,000 per person, every year, in foreign exchange. Nobody has ever objected seriously to students being sent to the United States or Great Britain for fear that they would be "derailed ideologically". Then, how many students after studying in Socialist countries have become political activists? No objection could be taken if they did, but the point is they have not. Most of them have come back qualified as doctors, engineers, scientists, sociologists, historians, etc. It is not their fault if many of them are prevented from fully using their qualifications in Pakistan, because the doors to employment in Government or Government-controlled institutions are closed to them.

Rationing of education

The real fact of the matter is that the controllers of education in Pakistan are monopolists, who seem to believe that higher education is the privilege of certain classes – the well-to-do, offspring of bureaucrats, sons of landlords, heirs to businessmen. For this small class new educational institutions are built and the older ones expanded. Even linguistic restrictions applicable elsewhere are condoned in their case, so that their students can get admission to Western universities. The result, as intended, will give us a small percentage of educated elite, meant to run the country, if possible without interference from the hoi polloi. For the majority of our people, new educational schemes are scant, and there is a steady deterioration in standards on account of neglect. The failure of all plans for mass education can only partly be explained by inefficiency and corruption; in addition to these chronic factors – which apply to all Government schemes – there seems to be a lack of desire to educate the people.

The antediluvian theory behind the barren policy is that education must be controlled and rationed, because if it is not the educated people will clamour for jobs that are not there and thus get disaffected, and, perhaps, begin to seek a change of system. This philosophy has been inherited from the British, who merely wanted to educate enough people to provide babus for their offices and a few professionals to run the administration and the skeleton services. The danger of education spreading to the mass of people was always resisted. Although formal education was not an absolute pre-requisite for nationalist and anti-imperialist feelings or the desire for democracy. Governments following the colonial pattern still believe that if the masses are kept illiterate and ignorant it is easy to cope with their discontent. Perhaps, they are right.

Bankrupt philosophy

Anyhow, no citizen genuinely concerned with the country's future can accept this bankrupt philosophy. It is for all a priority task to drive these educational monopolists from the temple of education. Education on a mass scale is absolutely vital for national progress and development. Therefore, every opportunity for educating our boys and girls must be seized. Arrangements should be made within the country for setting up new institutions; admissions should not be dependent on affluence but guided by merit and sustained by generous scholarships. Further, where foreign countries are willing to offer help, instead of being rudely spurned it should gratefully be accepted. Instead of the annual non-utilization of hundreds of scholarships, we should ask for more. And as has been said before now in these columns, the answer to the objection that these students travel illegally is that they should be permitted to travel legally.

In the larger national interests, the present policy resting on blind narrow-mindedness should be abandoned, and a rational system evolved for allowing Pakistan's youth to take full advantage of educational opportunities in foreign lands – East or West.

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POPULATION PLANNING CRITICIZED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 11 Dec 86 pp 7-8

[Text]

APPROPRIATELY, the Planning Minister worries a great deal about the steady rise in Pakistan's population; however, he seems to be the only person in high Government office aware of, or concerned about, the consequences of population growth outstripping economic growth year after year.

With Pakistan's population nearing the one hundred million mark and the unchecked population increase rate at about 3.2 per cent, the future offers a dark, dreary picture. Not even the best possible economic planning could cope with this situation; and economic planning in Pakistan is far, far from the best, largely because it is dependent on foreign aid and subject to foreign advice and directives. Therefore, the priorities devised do not always cater to national needs, particularly as far as the promotion of industrial development is concerned.

Best investment

Dr. Mehboob-ul-Haq is, therefore, right in declaring that no investment is today as important as that of arresting population growth. It is estimated that, if effective measures are not taken, within the next twenty-five or thirty years the country's population will almost double. This, every one must learn to accept, will bring with it a frightening increase in poverty, want and disease. Therefore, the demand voiced that the growth rate of population must be halved is sensible. However, neither the Planning Minister nor anyone else has been able to suggest how this target is to be achieved for the coming years – and at the latest by 2,000 A.D.

There is no doubt whatsoever that this goal or anything like it cannot be achieved through the methods employed over the last three decades. Population-planning programmes in our country have been utterly inadequate; despite all the funds expended, the results have been disappointing. Basically, apart from a long list of other shortcomings, and the lack of a proper infrastructure for countrywide functioning, there seems to be a weakness in the will to produce good results. This fatal weakness is accentuated by social prejudice, irrational fears and pseudo-religious anathemas. So far, even Government departments directly concerned have been reluctant to accept the great importance and urgency of the task that has been allotted to them.

Education

Nor has much been done in the way of spreading education about population-planning among the people. Presently, a few insipid, short-shorts are shown on PTV, and a few slogans are heard on the Radio – and this is considered to be enough. It is not enough. If Government is serious about checking population it must learn to adopt more useful means to achieve the desired end. The accord with China for cooperation in this field may help. Perhaps, it would be even more useful to seek India's assistance in this field, because they have done fairly well over recent years and conditions in that country are very similar to ours even in the matter of common prejudices.

Badly needed are a massive effort, a total reorganization of the population planning departments, and further mobilization of the non-governmental effort, including help from political parties, so that Pakistan can avoid the impending disaster that will result from its inability to control the dangerous rise in its population.

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